



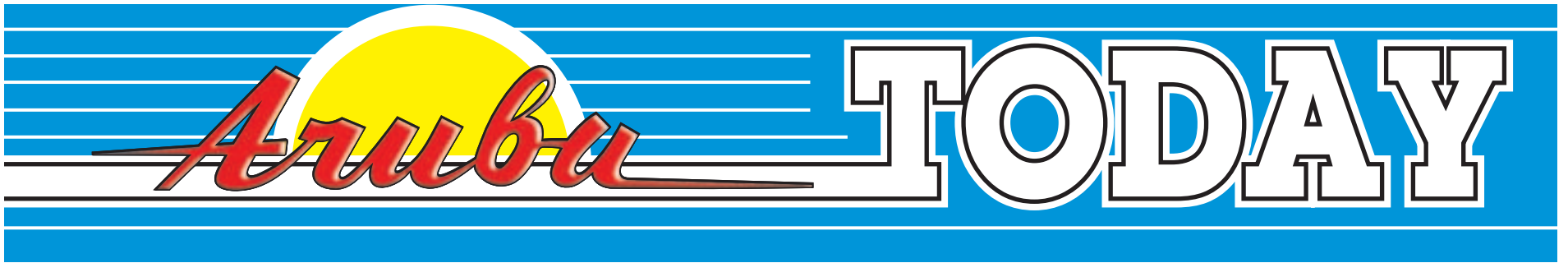
TRINIDAD HUNTERS VOW TO OVERTURN BAN ON HUNTING

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IN PUERTO RICO, TEACHERS LAUNCH TWO-DAY STRIKE

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On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Wednesday, January 15, 2014

EGYPT VOTES

**HAMZA HENDAWI
MAGGIE MICHAEL
Associated Press**

CAIRO (AP) — A referendum on a new constitution laid bare the sharp divisions in Egypt six months after the military removed the elected Islamist president. Pro-army voters lined up Tuesday outside polling stations, singing patri-



An Egyptian woman shows her inked finger after casting her vote in Cairo, Egypt, Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2014.

(AP Photo/Amr Nabil)

otic songs, kissing images of Egypt's top officer and sharing their upbeat hopes for their troubled nation.

Despite heavy security, 11 people were killed in sporadic violence, with protesters burning tires and pelting police with rocks and firebombs to create just enough danger to keep many voters at home.

The two-day balloting will likely pave the way for a possible presidential run by the nation's top general after he ousted Islamist President Mohammed Morsi last July, setting off a fierce crackdown on Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood.

Continued on Page 8



MOVING FORWARD

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie delivers his State Of The State address at the Statehouse, Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2014, in Trenton, N.J. Faced with a widening political scandal that threatens to undermine his second term and a possible 2016 presidential run, Christie apologized again Tuesday, saying his administration "let down the people we are entrusted to serve" but that the issue doesn't define his team or the state.

(AP Photo/Julio Cortez)

In annual address, Christie shifts focus from scandal to policy

**MARC SANTORA
MICHAEL BARBARO
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Facing the worst political crisis of his career, Gov. Chris Christie told the voters of New Jersey on Tuesday that they deserved better. "The last week has certainly tested this administration. Mistakes were clearly made. And as a result, we let down the people we are entrusted to serve," he

said at the opening of his State of the State address. "I know our citizens deserve better. Much better." He said the wave of disconcerting revelations last week - that members of his staff and his appointees had sought to punish local officials who had not supported his re-election campaign last year - "does not define us or our state." The speech provided Chris-

tie's first public remarks since his apology Thursday, when he appeared in a televised news conference to say he was a "heartbroken" man who accepted responsibility for his staff's role in closing traffic lanes to the George Washington Bridge. The closings led to gridlocked streets in Fort Lee, N.J., for four days last September and an explosive political scandal for

Christie. "I am the governor, and I am ultimately responsible for all that happens on my watch - both good and bad," he said. He then sought to move the conversation forward, citing his accomplishments over the past four years and saying that he was focused on the daily job of governing.

Continued on Page 3

US journalist barred from Russia

V. ISACHENKOV
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia said Tuesday it has barred a journalist for U.S.-funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty from the country for five years over a visa infraction, a charge rejected by the veteran American journalist, who described it as “bureaucratic trickery” to keep him out of the country.

The barring of David Satter, who has written several books about Russia, appears to reflect the Kremlin’s nervousness about critical opinion before next month’s Winter Olympics in Sochi.

Satter has been strongly critical of the games, which Vladimir Putin has made a priority of his presidency. In a recent commentary posted on CNN’s website, Satter criticized the International Olympic Committee’s “irresponsibility” in choosing Sochi and warned that it could lead to “one of the greatest catastrophes in the history of the Olympics.”

Satter began working in September for RFE/RL, which is funded by the U.S. Congress to support human rights, democracy and other U.S. priorities.

Marie Harf, deputy spokeswoman of the U.S. State Department, said Tuesday the U.S. is disappointed that Russian authorities denied a visa to Satter and is monitoring his case.

“The U.S. Embassy in Moscow has raised our concerns on this case and the treatment of journalists and media organizations in general with Russian authorities. As we’ve said many times before, hindering the free flow of information undermines the kind of open environment for free debate and discussion that supports innovation and dynamisms,” said Harf.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said the U.S. journalist had not applied for an extension of his visa within the prescribed time. Satter argued that the case was bureaucratic obfuscation, and RFE/RL President Kevin Klose said in a statement that barring Satter from entering Russia was a “fundamental violation of the right of free speech.”

Satter insisted that the ministry had promised him a new visa, but failed to provide a letter of support on time, causing the migration agency to declare him in violation of visa rules. Satter left Russia on Dec. 4 on a court order and tried to obtain a new visa in Ukraine, but he said a Russian diplomat there read him a statement on Dec. 25 saying that Russian “competent organs” considered his presence in the country “undesirable.” Satter, speaking from London, said the Russian explanation “is a case of just bureaucratic trickery.”

Klose said the U.S. Embassy has lodged a protest with the Foreign Ministry.

Satter, 66, first worked in Moscow in 1976-1982 as a correspondent of the British newspaper Financial Times, and has written extensively about the Soviet Union and Russia since then. His books include “Darkness at Dawn: the Rise of the Russian Criminal State,” which focuses on the alleged role of Russian security agencies in apartment building explosions in 1999 that triggered the second war in Chechnya. An abridged Russian-language version was published recently in Moscow.

“To say that I’m not allowed on the territory of the Russian Federation at the request of the security services — this I haven’t seen applied to a journalist in my entire career of writing about Russia,” he said.

The expulsion of Western reporters was common during Cold War times, and the Kremlin has revived the practice in recent years. In 2011, Russia denied entry to Luke Harding, a Moscow correspondent for the London-based Guardian. In 2012, French freelance journalist Anne Nivat had her business visa canceled after she tried to gather information about opposition groups in the provinces. **q**

IAEA to meet on Iran pact January 24

GEORGE JAHN
Associated Press

VIENNA (AP) — As diplomats worked on the next step of implementing a landmark Iran nuclear deal, the country’s president described it Tuesday as a “surrender” of Western powers to Tehran’s demands. But the U.S. dismissed the comment as playing to a home audience and urged Iran to abide by the deal. The Nov. 24 agreement commits Tehran to curb its nuclear programs in exchange for initial sanctions relief over six months as the two sides work toward a permanent agreement. The accord designates the U.N.’s International Atomic Energy Agency to supervise Iranian compliance with terms of the deal.

The 35-nation IAEA board is expected to approve that role at a meeting set for Jan. 24, according to two diplomats. They demanded anonymity because they were not authorized to disclose the date ahead of an official IAEA announcement.

nouncement.

Iranian officials have been keen to portray the pact as advantageous to their country in easing sanctions in return for what they say are minimal nuclear concessions.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani’s remarks about the accord Tuesday appeared to be part of efforts to bring around hard-liners who have denounced the deal, claiming it tramples on Iran’s nuclear rights.

“Do you know what the Geneva agreement means? It means the surrender of the big powers before the great Iranian nation,” Rouhani told a crowd in the oil-rich province of Khuzestan. “The Geneva agreement means the wall of sanctions has broken. The unfair sanctions were imposed on the revered and peace-loving Iranian nation,” he said. “It means an admission by the world of Iran’s peaceful nuclear program.” Rouhani’s comments drew a dismissive U.S. response.

“It doesn’t matter what they say,” White House spokesman Jay Carney told reporters in Washington, describing the statement as meant for a “domestic audience.”

“What matters to us ... is what Iranian leaders do, what Iran does in keeping its commitments in this agreement,” said Carney. The U.N. agency did not confirm the board meeting but said separate talks in Tehran between Iran and IAEA experts were postponed from Jan. 21 to Feb. 8. The IAEA is hoping Iran will agree to cooperate in investigating IAEA suspicions that it worked on nuclear weapons, if not during those talks then subsequent ones. Tehran denies working on — or wanting — such arms.

One of the diplomats said the Iran-IAEA talks were postponed to allow Iran and the agency to prepare for the implementation of the Nov. 24 deal — a view the United States appeared to share. **□**



A worker rides a bicycle in front of the reactor building of the Bushehr nuclear power plant, just outside the southern city of Bushehr. Iran and six world powers have agreed on how to implement a nuclear deal struck in November, with its terms starting from Jan. 20, officials announced this week.
(AP Photo/Majid Asgarpour)

Mosquito-borne virus spreading in Caribbean

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)

— A mosquito-borne virus appears to be spreading quickly in the Caribbean just weeks after epidemiologists first found local transmission occurring in St. Martin. St. Martin now has as many as 200 cases of chikungunya, a virus found mainly in Africa and Asia

that can cause a debilitating sickness with fever, rash and intense muscle and joint pain. The virus then spread to neighboring Dutch St. Maarten, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control says new cases have also been confirmed in the French Caribbean islands of Martinique, Gua-

deloupe and St. Barthélemy. The British Virgin Islands reported three cases Monday. CDC epidemiologist Erin Staples said Tuesday that “further spread to other Caribbean islands and to the surrounding mainland areas is possible in the coming months and years.” **□**

Boeing confirms new 787 battery incident: report

Associated Press

Battery problems resurfaced on Boeing's 787 on Tuesday, after gas was discovered coming out of a battery on a plane parked in Tokyo.

Boeing said the problem on a Japan Airlines 787 was discovered during scheduled maintenance. No passengers were on board. The company said it appears that a single battery cell "vented," or released gas.

The incident comes a year after a fire in a lithium ion battery aboard a Japan Airlines 787 parked at Boston's Logan International Airport. That was followed nine days later by another battery incident that forced an emergency landing in Japan by an All Nippon Airways 787.

Those problems prompted the FAA and other authorities to ground all 787s for more than three months. The planes began flying again after Boeing changed the battery system, adding a tougher box to hold the battery and measures to contain any short-circuit or fire.

Boeing said those changes appear to have worked as designed in the battery incident on Tuesday. It said it's working with Japan Airlines to get the plane flying again.

Because the incident happened in Japan and involved a Japanese airline, Japanese authorities would take the lead in any investigation. If the Japan Transport Safety Board opens an investigation, the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board "would certainly participate," NTSB spokesman Peter Knudson said. The NTSB said the incident was reported to it as a "smoke event."

The NTSB expects to finish its investigation of the 787 fire in Boston by the end of March, and present findings at a public meeting this fall.

"Anything we can learn about the (latest) battery failure would be helpful" to the ongoing investigation, Knudson said. □

In address, Christie shifts focus from scandal to policy

Continued from front

"This administration and this Legislature will not allow the work that needs to be done to improve the people's lives in New Jersey to be delayed for any

state, with tales of individual fortitude largely taking the place of policy initiatives.

In contrast to previous years, his office this year released a copy of his prepared remarks in advance,

State of the State?" appear on screen. The answer: "Embarrassed."

Even as he remained under siege by opponents and new revelations about the lane closings threatened to overwhelm other initia-

ulation for his performance after Hurricane Sandy, projecting himself as "America's governor" and bur-nishing an image as an elected official lawmaker who stood above the petty politics of the day.

"Maybe the folks in Washington, in both parties, could learn something from our record here," he said then.

This year, Christie argued that his recent travails should not overshadow a four-year record of working well with officials from both parties.

"It's no accident how we got to this place today," Christie said. "We chose the way."

And in this new year and in the next four years, we need to build on this momentum by creating a new attitude: We need to create an attitude of choice. It is not about choosing everything; it is not about saying yes to everyone.

It is about setting our priorities and choosing to invest in New Jersey where it matters and to put in place the reforms and reductions that make it possible."

He will continue to focus on improving the state's education system, a perennial policy goal of the governor.

Besides a longer school day, Christie called for an extended academic year, a proposal whose popularity has grown in urban school districts across the country.

"Life in 2014 demands something more for our students," Christie said. □



New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, center, after speaking at the New Jersey Statehouse for a joint session of the state legislature in Trenton, N.J., Jan. 14, 2014. Gov. Christie, whose aides and appointees apparently engineered a traffic nightmare as political payback, sought to change the subject in his State of the State speech on Tuesday.

(Damon Winter/The New York Times)

reason," he said. "I am the leader of this state and its people, and I stand here today proud to be both. But also, those of you who know me, know I am always determined to do better."

He outlined plans to extend the school day, lower taxes for homeowners and reduce urban crime. The level of detail was a marked change from his remarks last year, when he spent two-thirds of his speech recalling the toll Hurricane Sandy had taken on the

an attempt to focus attention on matters other than the political drama.

But with Christie's administration facing both federal and state inquiries, questions about the ways his administration has used the power of the state to punish political rivals are unlikely to go away any time soon.

Just before the speech, the state Democratic Party released a video attacking the governor. After playing clips of comedians mocking Christie, the words "The

tives, Christie, who is believed to have presidential aspirations, said the state must move past political division, and he called for a renewed spirit of bipartisanship and cooperation throughout New Jersey.

It is an optimistic message with obvious appeal to a national audience but it most likely sounded jarring to many Democrats closer to home, due to the scandal last week.

In the State of the State address he delivered last year, Christie basked in ad-

Police: Shooting at school in New Mexico; 2 hurt

ROSWELL, New Mexico (AP)

— A gunman opened fire Tuesday morning at a New Mexico school, critically injuring at least two students before being taken into custody. A witness said the gunman was a student who she thought was being bullied.

Odiee Carranza said the boy shot a 14-year-old twice in the face and shot a girl in the arm. The boy then

fired a shot into the sky before dropping the gun, and a teacher then grabbed him, Carranza said.

Officials at University Medical Center in Lubbock, Texas, say a 14-year-old boy was flown there in critical condition and a 13-year-old girl was en route in serious condition. Information from nurses treating the boy indicates he was the shooter's target, hospital

spokesman Eric Finley said. The gunman opened fire at Berrendo Middle School as classes were starting for the day. Lorena Beltran told the Albuquerque Journal that her daughter, who attends the school, said a male student was shot in the face. Roswell police say the school was placed on lockdown, and the suspected shooter was arrested. Age and other details on the

gunman were not immediately released.

Student Anyssa Vega said she was talking to a security guard when she heard a shot.

"I turned around, and all I saw was someone on the floor with their arm bleeding," Vega told the Journal.

Roswell is perhaps best-known as the site of an alleged UFO crash in 1947. □

Beanie Babies creator gets probation, no prison

MICHAEL TARM
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — The billionaire creator of Beanie Babies was sentenced to two years of probation, but no prison time, on Tuesday for tax evasion on \$25 million in income he had stashed away in Swiss bank accounts. H. Ty Warner, 69, appeared somber but composed as he made a brief statement before receiving his sentence in a Chicago federal courtroom, apologizing and saying he felt "shame and embarrassment" for what he had done. He could have been sentenced to up to five years in prison, and prosecutors were seeking prison time for Warner, who pleaded guilty last year to a single tax evasion count. U.S. District Judge Charles

Kocoras, however, sentenced Warner to probation and 500 hours of community service, praising the toy magnate for the charity work he's done. Kocoras said his decision was difficult, but he added, "Society will be better served by allowing him to continue his good works." The judge said Warner's "public humiliation" and "private torment" as a result of his criminal prosecution was a punishment he's already paid. Warner was among the highest-profile prosecutions in the federal government's push to go after Americans concealing income from the IRS overseas, often in Switzerland. Prosecutors say at one point, Warner was concealing as much as \$107 million.



H. Ty Warner, center, the billionaire who created Beanie Babies, leaves federal court after being sentenced on Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2014, in Chicago. Warner was given two years of probation, but no prison time, for tax evasion on \$25 million in income he had stashed away in Swiss bank accounts. (AP Photo/Andrew A. Nelles)

Beanie Babies first appeared in the mid-1990s, triggering a craze that generated hundreds of millions of dollars for Westmont, Illinois-based TY Inc., of which Warner is the sole owner. Forbes recently put his net worth at \$2.6 billion. The small, plush toys have heart-shaped name tags and are made to resemble bears and other animals.

Some are designed to look like cartoon or comic book characters. As collectibles, some fetch thousands of dollars. Warner maintained a secret offshore account starting in 1996 with the Switzerland-based financial services company UBS. He earned \$3.1 million in gross income in 2002 through the account, but didn't report it, prosecutors say.

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Obama to press jobs agenda with executive actions



President Barack Obama, center, gestures as he speaks to media before his Cabinet meeting, Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2014, in the Cabinet Room of the White House in Washington. From left are, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

JIM KUHNHENN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is ready to put an economic spotlight on his annual State of the Union address this month and is making a case that, even against a divided Congress, he can still be relevant to people struggling in the up-and-down recovery. With two weeks left before his speech to Congress, Obama is showcasing how he can advance his economic agenda through his executive powers and his ability to coax action from important interest groups. On Tuesday, Obama met with his Cabinet to discuss measures that can help the middle class. Later this month, he is convening CEOs at the White House to lay out plans for hiring the long-term unemployed. Before Tuesday's meeting, Obama predicted that Congress will be busy this year debating a renewal of jobless benefits for the long-term unemployed and an immigration overhaul. But he said he wants his Cabinet

also to focus on executive actions that don't require legislation.

"The president will use every tool he can to create new jobs and opportunities for the middle class," White House senior adviser Dan Pfeiffer writes in an email to be sent Tuesday to the White House list of supporters. "He will be looking for areas of bipartisan cooperation, but he won't be waiting on Congress to act."

The approach has strong echoes of Obama's 2012 "We can't wait" campaign that sought to depict him as an impatient executive in the face of inaction from Congress, particularly the Republican-controlled House of Representatives.

But the approach also highlights the limits of the president's ability to work with Congress.

Only through legislation can Obama obtain some of the most ambitious items on his economic agenda — from a higher minimum wage to universal preschool to an overhaul of immigration laws. They are three items in

his 2013 State of the Union that will make a return appearance in this year's speech.

If Republicans in Congress are unreceptive, he will have to settle for more incremental and narrower solutions that don't necessarily have the staying power and the force of law.

Clinton-era White House chief of staff John Podesta, who is joining the White House as a senior adviser, has long pressed Obama to use his executive authority to get around congressional opposition.

Podesta co-authored a report in 2010 for the liberal Center for American Progress that argued that presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton enacted aspects of their agendas even in the face of a divided Congress. □

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Police acquitted in death of California homeless man

GILLIAN FLACCUS

Associated Press

SANTA ANA, California (AP) — By the time all four verdicts were read acquit-

ting two California officers of killing a homeless man, people on both sides were

frontation with six officers in July 2011. A surveillance camera captured him screaming for his father and begging for air as the police kned him, jolted him with an electric stun gun and used the blunt

which police officers were charged in a death involving actions on duty. Thomas' death led to days of protests, forced the recall of three City Council members and led the police chief to step down.

mer Officer Jay Cicinelli, 41, was acquitted of involuntary manslaughter and excessive use of force.

The FBI said it will review the evidence to determine whether federal action is justified. Outside court, Thomas' parents condemned the verdicts.

"Just horrified," Cathy Thomas said. "He got away with murdering my son."

Ron Thomas has said his son suffered from schizophrenia and didn't understand the officers.

Ramos' attorney, John Barnett, said jurors did their duty. The defense said Thomas started the confrontation by refusing to heed police orders and was fighting officers so much that they called for backup multiple times. At one point, the lawyers said, Thomas tried to reach for Cicinelli's stun gun.

The video began with Ramos stopping Thomas on July 5, 2011, after the officer answered a call about a disheveled man jiggling the handles of car doors in a busy parking lot.

Ramos grew frustrated with Thomas, who wasn't following orders to sit on a curb

with his hands on his knees. Ramos snapped on plastic gloves, made two fists and then held them in front of Thomas' face as he said, "Now see these fists? They're going to (expletive) you up."

Cicinelli, who arrived a few moments later, jolted Thomas several times with an electric stun gun and used the butt end to hit Thomas in the head and face, breaking bones. Thomas was taken off life support five days later.

A county pathologist concluded that Thomas died, in part, from asphyxiation caused by injuries he received during the confrontation. Defense attorneys said Thomas suffered from an enlarged heart from drug abuse, and his exertions during the struggle were too much for him.

Only a handful of police officers nationwide have been charged with murder for actions taken while on duty, and convictions in those cases are rare, said Lawrence Rosenthal, a law professor at Chapman University School of Law and a former federal prosecutor. □



Shocked supporters of Kelly Thomas react in Santa Ana, Calif., after the 'not guilty' verdicts in his beating death outside the Santa Ana Courthouse. The Orange County panel found Manuel Ramos and Jay Cicinelli not guilty of all charges — including manslaughter — in the 2011 death of Kelly Thomas. A surveillance video showed police pummeling and stun-gunning him.

(AP Photo/Eugene Garcia)

sobbing.

Kelly Thomas, 37, died five days after a violent con-

frontation with six officers in July 2011. A surveillance camera captured him screaming for his father and begging for air as the police kned him, jolted him with an electric stun gun and used the blunt

end to strike him around the face and head. It was a rare case in

Former Officer Manuel Ramos, 39, was acquitted of second-degree murder and involuntary manslaughter on Monday. For-

Hotline fields 17 calls on US fertility clinic

PAUL FOY

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The suspect is dead, the fertility clinic where he reportedly replaced a customer's sperm with his own no longer operates, and the clinic left behind no records behind that might show the extent of the scandal, the University of Utah said Tuesday.

A university hotline has fielded 17 calls in recent days about possible tampering of semen samples at the fertility clinic once operated by faculty members.

Yet officials say they may never get to the bottom of a complaint that a convicted felon working as a medical technologist at the clinic two decades ago switched his sperm, leaving a woman who is now 21 asking, "Who am I?"

University officials say

they're stumped because the mix-up happened in 1991, the clinic shut down some time in the 1990s, and the suspect died in 1999.

"Unfortunately, the reality of this very disturbing situation is that there is very little information with which to make any definitive conclusions," Kathy Wilets, a spokeswoman for the University of Utah's health sciences division, told The Associated Press in a statement.

She added: "We believe it is impossible to determine exactly what happened. The university is sympathetic to the distress this situation has caused the Branum family."

State and federal prosecutors said they were unaware of the nearly year-old allegation and weren't certain it warranted an investigation.

Pamela Branum, the

mother of the 21-year-old woman, has said she and her husband discovered a genetic mismatch in their daughter and were able to trace her lineage with help from relatives of the now-deceased fertility clinic worker, Thomas Ray Lipfert.

Branum said she believes the university hasn't conducted a serious investigation and is stonewalling to conceal the possibility of a wider scandal.

Wilets said the university is sharing as much information as it can offer the family.

The University of Utah had no ownership interest in the clinic, Reproductive Medical Technologies, but used some of its services.

Three of the clinic's owners were faculty or staff members, and surviving partners have declined to comment. □



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US Financial Front:

American businesses boost stockpiles 0.4% in November

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. companies built up their stockpiles in November as their sales improved. Continued growth in inventories suggests businesses believe consumers will increase spending in the months ahead.

The Commerce Department said Tuesday that business stockpiles grew 0.4 percent in November. That follows a strong 0.8 percent gain in October. Sales increased 0.8 percent in November after a 0.5 percent gain the previous month. Rising stockpiles should help keep economic growth solid in the October-December quarter. Several economists project growth at a 3 percent annual rate in that period after a 4.1 percent rate in the previous quarter. Greater restocking boosts growth because it requires more factory production. Retailers led much of the gains in inventories ahead of the holiday shopping season. Wholesalers also increased their stockpiles. Stockpiling by manufacturers was flat. But increases in stockpiles can also pose risks for economic growth. Two-fifths of the growth in the July-September quarter came from a buildup in stockpiles. All those additional products in stores and on warehouse shelves could weigh heavily on the companies that own them if consumer spending doesn't accelerate. Retail sales rose 0.2 percent in December, slightly slower than the gains in the previous two months. Americans bought more clothes last month, shopped more frequently online and ate out more often. □



Chris Busch, multichannel sales support manager at an Oklahoma City Best Buy store, moves inventory at the store in Oklahoma City. The government reported positive data on how much U.S. businesses adjusted their stockpiles in November on Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2014.

(AP Photo/Sue Ogrock)

Retail trade group: US holiday sales up 3.8%

ANNE D'INNOCENZIO

AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. holiday sales rose 3.8 percent from last year, a major retail trade organization said Tuesday, spurred by deep clothing discounts and the convenience of shopping online.

The figure came in just shy of the group's forecast of a 3.9 percent increase.

The National Retail Federation said Tuesday that retail sales for November and December combined totaled \$601.8 billion, according to the federation's analysis of government data.

The 2013 increase is bigger than last year's 3.5 percent. But sales came at the expense of profits as stores had to discount early and often to get shoppers to buy in an economy that is still challenging for many.

A slew of major retailers including American Eagle Outfitters, and Pier 1 Imports have slashed their profit forecasts.

January is off to a slow start for retailers. On Monday, Express Inc. cut its fourth-quarter profit prediction, citing a slower-than-expected holiday shopping season and also weak store traffic in January.

Retailers' fiscal year typically ends in late January or early February to include the pre-Christmas and post-Christmas season.

The announcement from the National Retail Federation follows the Commerce Department's release on Tuesday of broader sales figures for December.

Total retail sales rose just 0.2 percent last month, according to the Commerce Department. That follows strong gains in October

and November, helped by healthy auto sales.

The figures showed that Americans bought more clothing in December,

clicked frequently at online retailers and paid higher gas prices. They cut back on cars and almost everywhere else. □

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Egyptians vote on new constitution in referen

Continued from front

It's also a key milestone in a military-backed political roadmap toward new elections for a president and a parliament after the coup, which has left Egypt sharply divided between Brotherhood supporters in one camp, and the military, security forces in the other, as well as a large segment of a population exacerbated by three years of turmoil.

Amid a climate of fear and paranoia, authorities, the mostly pro-military media and a significant segment of the population are showing little or no tolerance for dissent. Campaigning for a "no" vote risked arrest by the police and Egyptians who have publicized their opposition to the charter, even just parts of it, are quickly labeled as traitors. Some 160,000 soldiers and more than 200,000 policemen fanned out across the nation of some 90 million people to protect polling stations and voters against possible attacks by militants loyal to Morsi. Cars were prevented from park-

ing or driving by polling stations and women were searched by female police officers. Military helicopters hovered over Cairo and other major cities.

Shortly before polls opened, an explosion struck a Cairo courthouse, damaging its facade and shattering windows in nearby buildings but causing no casualties in the densely populated neighborhood of Imbaba — a Brotherhood stronghold.

The Health Ministry said 11 people died and 28 were wounded in clashes that broke out between Morsi supporters and government security forces on the sidelines of voting in Cairo, the adjacent province of Giza and two provinces south of the capital, Bani Suef and Sohag.

Four of those were killed when gunfire broke out between police and gunmen on rooftops in Sohag, according to security officials. Three others were wounded, including a senior police officer.

A Morsi supporter also was shot to death as he and about 100 others tried to storm a polling station in



Egyptian police inspect the Imbaba courthouse after an early morning explosion damaged the building despite a massive security operation to protect polling stations and voters, in Cairo, Egypt, Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2014. The building was not a polling station and no one was reported injured in the blast.

(AP Photo/Khalil Hamra)

the province of Bani Suef south of Cairo, said the officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media. It was not clear who was behind the shooting.

In Cairo's working class district of Nahya, pro-Morsi protesters shot at and

pelted with rocks a polling station before closing all entrances with chains, scaring away voters and locking election officials inside, Mohammed Serage-deen, the judge in charge of the station, said.

Security forces later fired tear gas to disperse the protesters and allow voting

to resume, he said.

The referendum is the sixth nationwide vote since the authoritarian Hosni Mubarak was toppled in a popular uprising in 2011, with the five others widely considered the freest ever seen in Egypt, including the June 2012 balloting won by Morsi. □

Berlin:

Top lawmaker presses for US no-spy deal

BERLIN (AP) — A top lawmaker in Germany's governing coalition is pressing for the completion of a "no-spy" agreement with the United States, insisting that failure would be unacceptable.

Germany announced in August that Berlin and Washington would negotiate an agreement not to spy on each other after revelations about U.S. National Security Agency surveillance caused widespread unease — later compounded by allega-

tions that the U.S. monitored Chancellor Angela Merkel's cellphone.

Thomas Oppermann, the caucus leader of the Social Democrats — Merkel's partners in government — said Tuesday that "a failure of the agreement would be unacceptable" and would "change the political character of relations." The government says that talks are ongoing.

Marie Harf, deputy spokeswoman at the U.S. State Department, said she had not seen reports that Ger-

man negotiators are unhappy with the way the talks are going.

But, she said, "the goal of these discussions have been to further intensify and strengthen cooperation between U.S. and German intelligence services. The U.S. and Germany already cooperate extensively in the areas of security and intelligence to address global threats that we all face. ... It's a very close relationship, and I have no reason to think that won't continue." □

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French president Hollande indignant over tabloid report

ELAINE GANLEY
SYLVIE CORBET
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Under pressure over a magazine report that he is having a secret affair with an actress, French President Francois Hollande conceded Tuesday he is going through "painful moments" with his companion but otherwise sidestepped specifics on his personal life.

Hollande's partner, journalist Valerie Trierweiler, has been hospitalized since Friday, when Closer published photos it said proved Hollande's liaison. Speaking at a major news conference, Hollande said Trierweiler "is resting" but insisted that the venue in front of hundreds of reporters was "neither the place nor the moment" to discuss the issue.

The report has heaped new problems on the already unpopular Hollande, whose announcement Tuesday of economic measures meant to encourage hiring was nearly overshadowed by the scandal.

The report in the magazine Closer showed photos of a man the magazine identified as Hollande wearing a motorcycle helmet and being ferried on the back of a small scooter to an alleged tryst with film actress Julie Gayet.

The latest revelations call into question whether a complex personal life can be private for someone with round-the-clock bodyguards, and about the role of "first lady" in France. Trierweiler is the first person to hold the post who was not married to the president. The first lady doesn't have formal status in France, but in practice she has an office in the presidential pal-

ace and small staff.

Asked if Trierweiler was still the first lady, Hollande responded: "Everyone in his or her personal life can go through ordeals — that's the case with us. But I have a principle. It's that private affairs should be handled privately, respecting the intimacy of all. This is neither the place nor the moment to do so."

He said he would have a response to the question before his Feb. 11 state visit to Washington, a trip that would normally include Trierweiler.

The once-sacred tradition in France of keeping private lives private has been chipped away as bloggers, tweeters and others have tapped into public curiosity. Hollande said of the Closer report that his "indignation is total" and called it a "violation that touches a personal liberty." He did not say whether the report is true.

Hollande did not mention the report at all during his prepared speech, in which he announced measures meant to loosen up France's labor market and cut into the 11 percent unemployment rate. He promised to cut 50 billion euros (\$68 billion) in public spending over the years 2015-2017 and laid out a broad economic strategy that largely involved going "faster, farther" with modest reforms his government has already taken.

The issue of whether the president was having an affair has consumed French media. It even reached the floor of parliament Tuesday. A leading legislator from the opposition conservative UMP party accused the president of taking unreasonable risks



French President Francois Hollande delivers his speech at his annual news conference, Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2014 at the Elysee Palace in Paris. The French president's complex personal life — and what it means to be the first lady in modern society — was aired as Hollande answered questions for the first time since a tabloid reported he was having an affair with an actress.

(AP Photo/Christophe Ena)

with his security.

"The president is not a normal citizen during his term. He is the chief of our armies. He is the keystone of our institutions. His protection should not suffer from any amateurism," Christian Jacob said in the National

Assembly. "The president should be aware of the level of responsibility that he exercises, be aware that his role is greater than his person, and be aware that he incarnates the image of France in the eyes of the world."

Asked whether his security was compromised, Hollande said, "My security is assured everywhere, and at any moment. When I travel officially ... and when I travel on a private basis, I have protection that is less suffocating."

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Hunters vow to overturn hunting ban in Trinidad

DAVID McFADDEN

Associated Press

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad (AP) — For decades, the baying of hounds and a cacophony of shotgun blasts echoed across the hinterlands of northern Trinidad, where hunters chased deer, armadillo and agouti, a cat-sized rodent.

But since October, the lands have largely fallen silent, leaving the country's 13,000 licensed hunters fuming and their 26,000 trained hounds idle. Trinidad and Tobago's government, at least on paper, has temporarily transformed the Caribbean nation into a no-trapping, no-hunting zone to give overexploited game animals some breathing room and to conduct wildlife surveys.

Conservationists have long argued that the wide-ranging freedoms enjoyed by hunters have depleted the population of wildlife in the twin-island republic, which is home to more than 100 mammals and is internationally famed as a

bird-watcher's paradise.

Licensed hunters never had bag limits, except for birds, and a flourishing market for "wild meat" for

"Hunting here really serves no useful purpose and is really quite ridiculous. I mean, you have six Trinidadians and 15 dogs to hunt down

West Indies.

But close-to-the-land hunters are fighting to overturn the two-year ban that took effect Oct. 1, and a

per stickers that read: "No hunting, no vote."

They say the practice of hunting with dogs is a key form of wildlife culling that binds together rural society. They insist it's also a source of income that creates thousands of jobs.

Hunting with dogs here is a far earthier pursuit than in Britain, where scarlet-and-black jacketed riders chased foxes with packs of dogs until the sport was banned in 2004.

Most hunters in Trinidad transport their packs of hounds and mongrels in scarred pickups and rattling vans. Subsistence hunters often never bothered with getting a state game license, even though it costs just over \$3. Hunters insist the ban benefits poachers, timber thieves and marijuana growers who they say are taking over remote hill-sides and brazenly setting up "trap guns," crude devices fashioned from steel pipe that can fire shotgun cartridges to kill animals or frighten intruders.

"I tell you, the poachers can hunt day and night now and the marijuana farmers are setting up trap guns wherever they want. But the sports hunters, we're the ones made into outlaws," said Shackeer Mohammed, an 86-year-old deer hunter who leads a hunting association in central Trinidad.

Buddie Miller, Trinidad's most vocal hunting advocate, argues there is no credible evidence that any of the country's game species are in a state of decline. He insists wild animals such as deer and agouti are flourishing despite habitat loss.

But data from forms submitted by licensed hunters show a high number of bagged animals for a Delaware-sized country of just 1.4 million people. More than 65,000 agoutis were caught over the last three hunting seasons, along with 6,385 deer, 13,092 armadillos and 10,161 lappes, raccoon-sized rodents whose meat goes for \$19 a pound. □



64-year-old hunter Francis Guelmo walks one of his hunting hounds on the outskirts of Chaguanas, Trinidad. The twin-island country of Trinidad and Tobago, at least on paper, has transformed the Caribbean nation into a no-trapping, no-hunting zone for about two years to give overexploited game animals some breathing room and to conduct wildlife surveys. Some 13,000 licensed hunters and their trained hounds are now forbidden to hunt on state lands.

(AP Photo/David McFadden)

parties meant that almost anything that ran or flew wild was targeted. Even the protected national bird, the scarlet ibis, could end up in a curry sauce.

a small animal like agouti! It's not exactly big game hunting in East Africa," said Christopher Starr, a life sciences faculty member at Trinidad's University of the

high court ruling could be handed down in February. They also vow to make the government pay during national elections due next year, passing out bum-

Mexico forces in deadly clash with vigilantes

MARK STEVENSON

Associated Press

ANTUNEZ, Mexico (AP) —

The Mexican government moved in to quell violence between vigilantes and a drug cartel in Michoacan state, but the campaign turned deadly early Tuesday with a confrontation between soldiers and civilians who witnesses say were unarmed.

There were widely varying reports of casualties, but Associated Press journalists saw the bodies of two men said to have died in the clash, and spoke to the family of a third man who was reportedly killed in the same incident. No women or children died, contrary to earlier reports by the spokesman of a self-defense group.

The Attorney General's Office said it could not confirm a number of dead. The Interior Ministry said it had no information about re-

ports that soldiers had fired on an unarmed crowd.

"This is how they plan to protect the community? We don't want them," said Gloria Perez Torres, grieving over the body of her brother, Mario, 56, who was killed in the clash.

Antunez was calm again Tuesday, and self-defense groups remained armed and in control.

In the city of Apatzingan, hundreds of federal police offices traveling in pickup trucks with machine guns mounted on the top, armored vehicles and buses amassed in the city square as residents watched.

"The federal police have been here for years but they don't do anything," said a man sitting on a bench at the plaza who identified himself only as Ivan.

Security analyst Alejandro Hope, who formerly worked for the country's in-

telligence agency, called the government's strategy in Michoacan a "disaster." After initially arresting the vigilantes months ago, the federal government appeared to be working with them recently.

The army and Federal Police have provided helicopter cover and road patrols while the self-defense groups attacked the cartel, but never intervened in the battles.

"Last week they were protecting the vigilantes," said Hope, director of security policy at the Mexican Competitiveness Institute. "Secretary Osorio practically said they were useful ... now they're going to put them down with firepower and bloodshed?"

The government doesn't agree with that assessment, said an official with the Interior Ministry who was not authorized to speak to the press by name.

"It's a strategy that's being adjusted, modified based on the demands of what is happening on the ground," the official said.

The government sent more troops and federal police late Monday to retake an area known as the Tierra Caliente after days of violence between the vigilantes and the Knights Templar cartel. Interior Minister Miguel Angel Osorio Chong urged the vigilantes to put down their arms and return to their home communities, saying the government would not tolerate anyone breaking the law.

Osorio Chong announced the new strategy following a weekend of firefights as the vigilantes extended their control to the communities of Antunez, Paracuaro, and Nueva Italia. Burning trucks and buses blocked highways. Two bodies were found hanging from a bridge. □



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Anti-immigrant paper under fire over Kyenge bit

ROME (AP) — The newspaper of Italy's anti-immigrant Northern League party has come under fire for a new feature listing the daily whereabouts of the country's first black Cabinet minister.

The "Here's Cecile Kyenge" feature was launched days after the Congolese-born Kyenge was once again heckled during a weekend appearance in Brescia by Northern League and other right-wing extremists. Northern League leaders have called for new protests at a Kyenge event this weekend. Ever since her appointment in April, Kyenge has faced racist taunts from Northern League politicians and activists. She has earned the League's wrath by promising to change Italy's restrictive immigration and citizenship policies and arguing that immigrants are a resource that Italy needs and not a security threat or burden.

On Tuesday, lawmakers from Kyenge's Democratic Party and other center-left politicians called the new feature in the La Padania daily an act of intimidation and demanded it be discontinued. "Can someone tell the racists that we're in the Third Millennium and are a civil country, despite them," tweeted Nichi Vendola, head of the left-wing SEL party and the president of Italy's Puglia region. "The racists think they're in Alabama or Mississippi of a half-century ago or in South Africa during apartheid." □

Scores drown in Nile fleeing South Sudan

NICHOLAS KULISH

© 2014 New York Times

NAIROBI, Kenya

Rebel forces in South Sudan attacked Malakal, the capital of the oil-rich state of Upper Nile, again on Tuesday, amid reports of a deadly ferry accident that claimed the lives of more than 200 people trying to flee sectarian fighting.

Col. Philip Aguer, a spokesman for the South Sudanese military, said the people on board were all civilians, including women and children, who were trying to escape the advance on the town of Malakal. "The boat was overloaded," Aguer said. The circumstances of the accident were not clear.

Many people displaced by the fighting in South Sudan have sought safety by crowding into barges and crossing the White Nile. In the rush to escape, witnesses have described how people have been crushed or fallen overboard and drowned, but the recent accident is the worst reported yet.

Malakal has already traded hands twice in the conflict, with the rebels capturing the strategic city early in the conflict, then retreating in the face of a government assault in late December. "Today there is fighting anew" in and around Malakal, said Toby Lanzer, the U.N. humanitarian coordinator for South Sudan, in a message on Twitter on Tuesday. He said the number of civilians seeking protection at

the U.N. base near there had "soared from 10,000 to 19,000."

The fighting was touched off by a political dispute between President Salva Kiir and his former vice president, Riek Machar. Kiir

are seeking refuge at U.N. bases around the country. More than 74,300 have already fled the country, with 4,000 to 5,000 arriving daily in neighboring Uganda alone, 4 out of 5 of them children. "We all as-

said. "There are very few places in the country where we can actually go." The Satellite Sentinel Project, a nonprofit group, released satellite photographs showing homes destroyed in the town of Mayom, in



Women carry belongings on their heads as they head towards the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) base in Malakal, South Sudan.

(AP Photo/Mackenzie Knowles-Coursin)

dismissed Machar along with the rest of his Cabinet in July.

The United Nations said in late December that more than 1,000 people had been killed since fighting broke out on Dec. 15. The International Crisis Group said last week that the number of fatalities was approaching 10,000.

The humanitarian crisis continues to grow. According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, around 413,000 people are internally displaced and 66,500

sume that the humanitarian situation will get worse. There are new people displaced," said Jose Barahona, country director in South Sudan for Oxfam. Access for humanitarian aid groups has been difficult in the rapidly shifting security situation. In places like Malakal, he said, it can be safe one day and dangerous the next, as offensives and counteroffensives take shape. "Due to the uncertainty of military operations, we have been deploying and evacuating people the whole time," Barahona

Unity State, a region where there are large oil reserves. The satellite pictures also showed damage to oil storage tanks and manifolds in the state. In Jonglei state, the market in the capital, Bor suffered significant damage as did homes in nearby villages, many of which were burned to the ground.

At least three aid workers have been killed so far. Dozens of humanitarian aid compounds have been looted of supplies and dozens of their vehicles have been stolen. □

Jamaica officers probe Canadian woman's killing

DAVID McFADDEN

Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)

— Jamaican police said this week they have no suspects in the slaying of a 53-year-old Canadian woman who was murdered at her rental home about a month after moving to this Caribbean country.

An autopsy found that Shirley Lewis-McFarlane died of asphyxiation and blunt force trauma during an attack in her rental house in Discovery Bay, a north coast tourist town. Her body was found Dec. 30.

St. Ann parish Police Superintendent Yvonne Martin-Daley said four people have been questioned in recent days but there have been no arrests. She said investigators were awaiting forensic tests so they can "take it up a notch."

"We are still going through asking the necessary questions, following the necessary leads, and hopefully we'll have a breakthrough as soon as possible," Martin-Daley said in a phone interview.

Friends say the Aurora, Ontario, woman fell in love with Jamaica about 14 years ago and moved to the island just about a month ago. She was previously married to a Jamaican man. Police haven't said what the motive may have been for the killing, but son Shawn Gavigan told the Toronto Star newspaper that he believes she "got mixed up with the wrong person" and was killed for money.

In an email to The Associated Press, daughter Jasmine Gavigan said the family is "a little frustrated at the seemingly slow pace" of the investigation.

"We understand that Jamaica may not have the resources available in Canada, but two weeks into the investigation we feel there is more we could know," Gavigan said.

Some 1,200 people were slain last year in Jamaica, an island with 2.7 million inhabitants, compared to 1,097 in 2012. □

Puerto Rico teachers launch two-day strike

DANICA COTO

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— Hundreds of teachers across Puerto Rico walked off their jobs Tuesday in a noisy two-day strike over cuts to their pensions that the island's government says are necessary to avert financial disaster but that educators say will force many of them into poverty. The teachers gathered with tambourines, cowbells

be revoked. Among the protesters at one school was Rene Perez, of the Grammy-winning Puerto Rican hip-hop duo Calle 13.

Aida Diaz, president of Puerto Rico's Teachers' Association, condemned the law that was approved on Christmas Eve and calls for switching from a defined benefit plan to a defined contribution system, among other changes.

ers employed at public schools went to work on Tuesday, according to Education Secretary Rafael Roman. Likewise, less than 200 students out of 425,000 total attended classes, he added.

At one high school in the southern town of Coamo, all teachers went on strike, including 42-year-old Rolando Cartagena Ramos, who teaches history and social studies.

"It will practically leave us destitute once we retire."

Opposition legislator Waldemar Quiles Rodriguez filed a bill ahead of the strike that would revoke the new law and restore the teachers' retirement system to its original structure. The island's House of Representatives is expected to consider the measure in upcoming weeks.

"No one wins," Quiles said of the new law. "The economy will be affected, as well as the education system."

Meanwhile, Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla urged teachers to end the strike and meet with him. He has said he would consider amending the law but not revoking it, noting the changes were needed because the system has a \$10 billion deficit and will run out of money by 2020 if nothing is done.

He said the law seeks only a 1 percent increase in teacher contributions, and that teachers would see a \$300-a-year raise for the next decade, among other changes.

"For decades, it was known that your retirement system would collapse," he said in an open letter to teachers. "Despite knowing this, no one did anything until now."

Diaz and others accuse Garcia of ignoring their plight in an attempt to appease credit rating agencies as the island's general obligation bond debt hovers above junk status. Puerto Rico just entered its eighth year of recession and is also struggling with \$70 billion in public debt. □



Striking teacher Jose Iturbe, left, holds up the megaphone to entertainer Rene Perez Joglar, also known as "Residente" from Puerto Rico's musical group Calle 13, who joined the protest by striking teachers outside a public school in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2014. Hundreds of teachers across Puerto Rico walked off their jobs in a two-day strike over cuts to their pensions that the island's government says are necessary to avert financial disaster but that educators say will force many of them into poverty. (AP Photo/Ricardo Arduengo)

and bullhorns outside public schools across the island on the first day of classes after winter break, forcing dozens of schools to close. Legislators of the main opposition party supported the strike and some principals and parents joined in, demanding that changes to the teachers' retirement system in the U.S. territory

She noted that teachers in Puerto Rico do not collect U.S. Social Security, and that many would see a decrease in their pension.

"This is the most important fight in our history," she said. "It's about protecting and defending the only source of income we have upon retirement."

Only 12 percent of teach-

He said he has been a teacher for 14 years and is considering joining the tens of thousands of Puerto Ricans who have left for the U.S. mainland in recent years in search of better jobs and a more affordable life.

"This law is going to be devastating to our future," he said in a phone interview.

Family of slain US executive ends Puerto Rico suit

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— The widow of a New Jersey bank executive who was shot to death in Puerto Rico sought this week to withdraw a wrongful death lawsuit against his employer.

In the suit filed last year, Maurice Spagnoletti's widow accused officials at Doral Bank of conspiring to kill him for uncovering alleged fraud at the

Puerto Rico-based institution. Doral denied the allegations and called the suit frivolous.

Lawyers for Marisa Spagnoletti and the couple's daughter filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit in U.S. District Court for Puerto Rico as "the most prudent course of action at this juncture," according to court papers.

Lawyers for the bank have

asked the court to dismiss the case "with prejudice," meaning it could not be re-submitted. They also indicated they would sanctions against the plaintiff's attorneys to recover legal costs.

"Plaintiffs' sudden voluntary dismissal of their own complaint, three days after the court-ordered deposition of Marisa Spagnoletti, effectively shows that Mrs.

Spagnoletti's complaint is without merit and lacks any credibility," Doral said in a statement.

Spagnoletti, 56, was shot to death in June 2011 as he drove home in San Juan in what authorities said seemed like a professional attack. He had been an executive vice president at Doral for about six months. No arrests have been made. □



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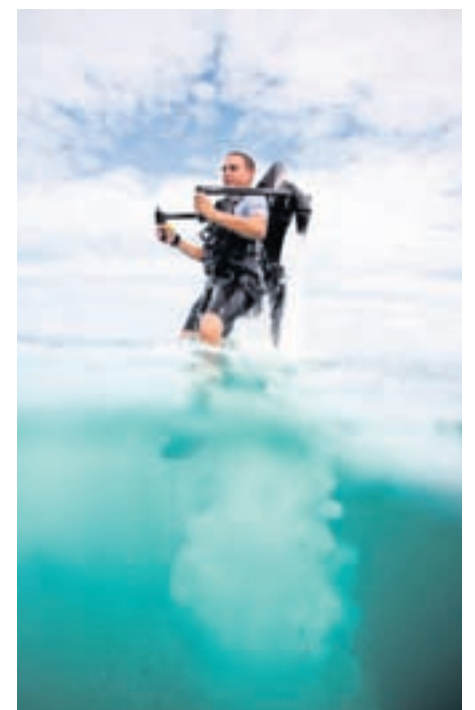
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maximum 6'9" (205 cm).
More information on Red Sail Sports

and JETLEV can be found at www.redsailaruba.com. □



Gigiola Gomez is Caribbean Queen for January 2014



PALM BEACH - The Caribbean Queen store at the Palm Beach Plaza Mall is proud to introduce its Caribbean Queen for January 2014, Gigiola Gomez, who makes accessories out of different kinds of fabric and materials. The designs flow from her imagination, she explains, and are worked out on a drawing pad. They then come alive in her home studio after she purchases or finds the right combination of fabrics suitable for their creation. Fashion design has been a passion with Gigiola, nicknamed Gigi, since she was 12. She has since designed

her own dresses and gowns. Her experience in the fashion industry started with a modeling career doing shows around the world, with Aruba, Europe, Latin America, and the United States among places she visited as a working model. Eventually she transitioned to personal styling and ended up creating her own fashion brand and seasonal collections. Absorbing the retail and production aspects of the fashion industry, she worked for an international boutique for eight years as a showcase director, creating many fashion editorials for magazines and pub-



lications, and as fashion consultant helped coordinate wardrobes and personal style for many clients. On a personal note, she is a big supporter of the Mary Joan Breast Cancer Foundation for whom she annually produces garments for breast cancer survivors who get to model on the pink runaway during the



Beauty On The Beach

Maiike Peek

She is from Holland and this is her first visit to Aruba! She is staying at the Arubiana Inn and enjoying Eagle Beach.

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annual fund raising fashion show. Gigiola's clients range from friends and acquaintances to working professionals and glamour girls with unique wishes. "I hope you enjoy my designs as much as I enjoyed creating them," she says. Also on Gigiola's list of accomplishments: In 2012 she was honored to dress Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands and her daughter-in-law Princess Maxima, now Queen Maxima. She also presented a collection during Aruba In Style 2012, which gave her the opportunity to showcase

her work to a broader audience including the international fashion press. This year she was inspired by the Island's beautiful beaches, creating the coral print beach collection. Part of the collection was gifted to Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands when she visited the Island in 2013. Gigiola was also named exclusive bathing suit designer for the Miss Teen Aruba International 2013. Come see her collection of accessories at the Caribbean Queen store, Palm Beach Village Mall in January! □

Singer Tony Marshall wows happy diners at Tango Restaurant



PALM BEACH - Singer Tony, the versatile vocalist whose renditions of evergreens are legendary on the island, wowed a special group of people at the Arawak Garden last Saturday evening. Steven and Christina Robertson, married 45 years and Tony and Eleanor Panzarino, married 65 years, sauntered over to the Arawak Garden to sample the menu at fantastic Tango Argentine Restaurant, hoping that the musician of the evening would sing some classics. And they were in luck: Tony Marshall was in great form, singing the best of the oldies in his



inimitable way. The two couples, pictured here with Tango waitress Afra, loved his selection, as did everybody who knows Tony. And everyone else. And everybody who knows Tony will understand that Saturday night was a song and dance happening that no one will soon forget! It surely was a Night to Remember! See you again soon, Steven, Christina, Tony and Eleanor! □



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Australian Open:



Roger Federer of Switzerland serves to James Duckworth of Australia during their first round match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2014.

Associated Press

Nadal joins Federer in 2nd round

DENNIS PASSA

AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— After a day of searingly-hot temperatures which raised complaints from players, top-seeded Rafael Nadal advanced to the second round of the Australian Open in relatively mild conditions.

Nadal's Australian opponent Bernard Tomic, bothered from the start by a left leg injury, retired from the match after losing the first set 6-4. Some in the capacity crowd of 15,000 at Rod Laver Arena booed lustily when Tomic indicated he could not continue.

Roger Federer, Andy Murray and defending champion Victoria Azarenka advanced earlier Tuesday amid temperatures that topped 42 Celsius (108 Fahrenheit).

Third-seeded Maria Sharapova joined them when she beat American Bethanie Mattek-Sands 6-3, 6-4 in the last match of the night.

Continued on Page 21



New York Knicks' J.R. Smith (8) drives past Phoenix Suns' Miles Plumlee (22) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Jan. 13, 2014, in New York.

Associated Press

NBA Capsules Knicks' run 5 after beating Suns in OT

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Carmelo Anthony had 29 points and 16 rebounds, and the New York Knicks held the Phoenix Suns without a field goal in overtime to win 98-96 on Monday night for their fifth straight victory. Anthony scored four of the Knicks' six points in the extra session, and New York allowed only

four free throws while forcing the Suns to miss all seven shots. Raymond Felton added 19 points for the Knicks (15-22), who climbed into a tie with Brooklyn for eighth place in the Eastern Conference. Goran Dragic had 28 points and eight rebounds for the Suns, who dropped their third straight. Leandro Barbosa scored 21 in his best

game since rejoining his old team on a 10-day contract. SPURS 101, PELICANS 95
NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Tony Parker capped a 27-point outing with several clutch layups in the final minutes, and San Antonio beat reeling New Orleans for its fifth consecutive win.

Continued on Page 20

Judge nixes Prelim OK of \$765M NFL case

MARYCLAIRE DALE

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A federal judge denied preliminary approval of a \$765 million settlement of NFL concussion claims, fearing it may not be enough to cover 20,000 retired players.

U.S. District Judge Anita B. Brody asked for more financial information from the parties, a week after players' lawyers filed a detailed payout plan for her review.

"I am primarily concerned that not all retired NFL football players who ultimately receive a qualifying diagnosis or their (families) ... will be paid," Brody wrote in a 12-page opinion filed Tuesday morning.

The proposed settlement, negotiated over several months, is designed to last at least 65 years.

The awards would vary, based on an ex-player's age and diagnosis. A younger retiree with Lou Gehrig's disease would get \$5 million, those with serious dementia cases would get \$3 million and an 80-year-old with early dementia would get \$25,000.

Some critics have argued that the NFL, with more than \$9 billion in annual revenues, was getting away lightly. But the players' lawyers said they will face huge challenges just to get the case to trial. They would have to prove the injuries were linked to the players' NFL service and should not be handled through league arbitration. Layn R. Phillips, a former federal judge from California hired by Brody to lead settlement negotiations, had called the deal fair. □

49ers gear up for tough return trip to Seattle

Green Bay Packers defensive end Mike Daniels (76) sacks San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick (7) during the second half of an NFL wild-card playoff football game, Sunday, Jan. 5, 2014, in Green Bay, Wis.

Associated Press



SANTA CLARA, California (AP) — Colin Kaepernick and the San Francisco 49ers have conquered the bitter cold of Green Bay and the travails of a cross-country flight to Carolina. Now they face their toughest test yet to get back to the Super Bowl: the deafening noise of Seattle's 12th man home crowd and that swarming Seahawks defense that thoroughly shut down the reigning NFC champion Niners in Week 2. "Our team has been in a lot of good primers, been through a lot of situations, been through tough environments, whether it be weather or opposing stadiums," coach Jim Harbaugh said Monday. "This team has been in a lot of situations. Been everywhere, man. Just like something from a Johnny Cash song, 'We've been everywhere man.'" In what has emerged as arguably the NFL's best rivalry, San Francisco is on an impressive roll riding an eight-game winning streak as it returns to the Pacific Northwest for Sunday's NFC title game — the 49ers' third in as many years. It's the trip everyone has envisioned for months now since it became clear Seattle would win the NFC West and secure the No. 1 seed.

"Long story short: They

know us, we know them," linebacker NaVorro Bowman said. "We got to go there. We all know the history. But this is the Super Bowl. Everything is on the line. That says it all. We're ready. That's all it comes down to." The 49ers (14-4) have committed seven turnovers and been outscored 71-16 in their last two trips to Seattle, including an embarrassing 29-3 defeat in September.

Yet a lot has changed in four months since San Francisco last traveled some 800 miles up the Pacific Coast to face its archrival, such as the 49ers' 19-17 victory against the Seahawks last month at Candlestick Park. That game showed this team it can go back to Seattle this time and leave with a different result even if it thunders and rains all afternoon.

"Oh, man, this is everything. We've worked hard," linebacker Ahmad Brooks said. "Now we need to capitalize on what we've been doing all year."

Kaepernick improved to 4-1 in the postseason — 3-0 on the road — with Sunday's 23-10 victory at Carolina, while Harbaugh became the first coach since the NFL's 1970 merger to lead his team to the NFC title game in each of his first three years. □

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Kings' Quick beats slumping Canucks 1-0

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jonathan Quick made 28 saves in his 27th NHL shutout, Dustin Brown scored early in the third period, and the Los Angeles Kings beat Vancouver 1-0 on Monday night for their fourth win over the Canucks this season.

NHL Capsules

Brown converted on a 3-on-1 rush just 24 seconds into the final period of a fight-filled game for the Kings, and Quick was unbeatable while making his fifth consecutive start since returning from a 24-game injury absence. The U.S. Olympic goalie posted his second shutout of the season and his first

since Nov. 7, a week before he severely strained his groin.

Eddie Lack stopped 19 shots in his fourth straight start for the Canucks, who were shut out for the first time all season during their sixth loss in seven games.

BLUE JACKETS 3, LIGHTNING 2

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Mark Letestu redirected Jack Johnson's shot from the point with 2:38 left, lifting Columbus past Tampa Bay.

It was the Blue Jackets' season-high fourth win in a row.

Nathan Horton scored his 200th NHL goal, also on the power play, and Ryan Johansen had a goal for

Columbus, which is 5-1 in the new year. Sergei Bobrovsky had 26 saves.

Alex Killorn and Victor Hedman had goals for Tampa Bay, and Anders Lindback stopped 25 shots.

Tampa Bay had been 17-1 when leading after two periods.

FLAMES 2, HURRICANES 0

RALEIGH, North Carolina, Karri Ramo made 22 saves in his first NHL shutout, and Mikael Backlund and Sean Monahan provided the offense in Calgary's win over Carolina.

The Flames snapped a three-game losing streak and handed the Hurricanes their second straight shutout defeat.



Los Angeles Kings goalie Jonathan Quick (32) deflects the puck with defenseman Drew Doughty (8) as Vancouver Canucks center Mike Santorelli (25) moves in in the first period of an NHL hockey game in Los Angeles, Monday, Jan. 13, 2014.

Associated Press

Backlund scored his seventh goal of the season for the Flames, who notched their second power-play tally in 26 chances. Monahan scored his 13th goal midway through the third period to add some insurance.

Ramo improved to 8-8-3 as the Flames swept the two-game season games from Carolina.

JETS 5, COYOTES 1

WINNIPEG, Manitoba

(AP) — The Winnipeg Jets found the energy they have lacked for weeks and made new coach Paul Maurice a winner in his debut behind the bench by routing Phoenix. Olli Jokinen, Eric O'Dell, Blake Wheeler, Michael Frolik and Devin Setoguchi scored for the Jets (20-23-5), who held a 38-19 shots advantage. □

NBA Capsules

Continued from Page 18

Tim Duncan scored 18 points before fouling out with 6:02 to go in what turned out to be a surprisingly tense game between the Western Conference-leading Spurs and a hobbled Pelicans squad that has lost six straight since an injury to leading scorer Ryan Anderson.

Manu Ginobili added 14 points, Kawhi Leonard 13 and Marco Belinelli 12 for San Antonio.

Anthony Davis had 22 points and 11 rebounds, and gave New Orleans its last lead at 87-86 with 7:08 to play. Brian Roberts, starting at point guard for the injured Jrue Holiday, scored 19.

WIZARDS 102, BULLS 88

CHICAGO (AP) — John Wall and Nene had 19 points apiece, Trevor Ariza scored 16 and Washington ended Chicago's five-game win streak. The Wizards led by 13 early in the fourth quarter and hung on after the Bulls made one last push.

Nene scored eight points in the final period and Bradley Beal came on strong down the stretch to finish with 13.

He hit a jumper and 3-pointer during a nine-point run that bumped Washington's lead to 96-82 with about 3 minutes left.

Wall scored four points during that spurt and had seven assists in the game. The Wizards had dropped five of seven.

Carlos Boozer scored 19 for Chicago and Joakim Noah grabbed 16 rebounds, but with a chance to reach .500 for the first time since November, the Bulls came up short. They also lost for the first time since trading Luol Deng to Cleveland last week, after winning three without him.

ROCKETS 104, CELTICS 92
BOSTON (AP) — Dwight Howard had 32 points and 10 rebounds, and Houston sent Boston crashing to its ninth consecutive defeat.

Jeremy Lin added 16 points and nine assists for the Rockets. James Harden scored 16 and Chandler Parsons added 14 after missing three games with a knee injury.

Avery Bradley had 24 points for the Celtics, on their longest losing streak since dropping a franchise-record 18 straight games in 2007. □

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Australian Open:

Continued from Page 18

Mattek-Sands double-faulted on break point in the ninth game of the second set, and Sharapova served out. Tomic called a medical timeout after three games, and twice more before he quit.

"Unfortunately, it's unlucky how it happened. I went for one ball and felt pain in my left leg," Tomic said of the training injury.

Nadal said he felt for his opponent.

"I know how tough is this situation, I had the same a few years ago at this tournament," Nadal said. "Since the beginning, I saw a little bit he had some problems on the leg."

Federer started his record 57th consecutive Grand Slam tournament with a 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 win over Australian wildcard entry James Duckworth on a day when the heat forced at least one player to black out during his match.

Azarenka played the opening match on the center court, and said it felt "like you're dancing in a frying pan." She had a 7-6 (2), 6-2 win over No. 91-ranked Johanna Larsson of Sweden.

Wimbledon champion Murray, on the comeback from minor back surgery in September, had a 6-1, 6-1, 6-3 win over Go Soeda of Japan and No. 5 Juan Martin del Potro rallied for a 6-7 (1), 6-3, 6-4, 6-4

win over U.S. qualifier Rhyne Williams.

Former No. 1-ranked Lleyton Hewitt lost in five sets to No. 24-seeded Andreas Seppi of Italy only a week after beating Federer in the Brisbane International final. A hot, gusty breeze swirled across Melbourne Park all day, making conditions more challenging instead of cooler. The crowd for the day session was 35,571, almost 12,000 down on day one.

Players draped bags of ice over their necks and shoulders and sat under covered seats in the changeovers. They retreated into the shade at the back of the courts between points. Canadian qualifier Frank Dancevic said he blacked out during a 7-6 (12), 6-4, 6-3 loss to No. 27 Benoit Paire of France. Dancevic had treatment in the second set but continued.

"I think it's definitely hazardous to be out there," Dancevic said. "It's dangerous."

Murray agreed the conditions bordered on being dangerous.

"It's easy to say that the conditions are safe ... but it only takes one bad thing to happen and it looks terrible for the sport when people are collapsing," Murray said. "Whether it's safe or not I don't know, but you've got to be very careful."

Tournament referee Wayne McKewen de-



Rafael Nadal of Spain makes a forehand return to Bernard Tomic of Australia during their first round match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2014.

Associated Press

fended a decision not to invoke measures which would have seen outdoor matches suspended and the roofs on two arenas closed.

"While conditions were hot and uncomfortable, the relatively low level of humidity ensured that conditions never deteriorated to a point where it was necessary to invoke the 'Extreme Heat Policy,'" McKewen said.

No. 13 John Isner, the only seeded American man in the draw, retired with an injured right ankle after losing the first two sets against Martin Klizan. Czech veteran Radek Stepanek retired with a sore neck in the fourth set against Blaz Kavcic, but said it wasn't heat-related.

No. 10 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, the 2008 Australian finalist, advanced with No. 11 Milos Raonic, No. 16 Kei Nishikori, No. 22 Grigor Dimitrov and No. 31 Fernando Verdasco. In the longest match of

the day, No. 18 Gilles Simon of France beat Daniel Brands of Germany 6-7 (4), 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 16-14 in four hours, 32 minutes. Simon came into the tournament with an ankle injury sustained in a warmup tournament. American Sloane Stephens, who beat Serena Williams in the quar-

terfinals here last year, defeated Yaroslava Shvedova 7-6 (1), 6-3 and 2004 U.S. Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova and 19th seed was beaten 6-3, 6-3 by Elina Svitolina of Ukraine.

No. 5 Agnieszka Radwanska, No. 8 Jelena Jankovic and No. 10 Caroline Wozniacki advanced. □



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By: Dr. Carlos Viana

Starting a new year, one of my resolutions is to completely stop supporting big agriculture (BigAg) and their synthetic food, full of nutritional deficiencies. Instead, my wife Phyllis and I have made a commitment to only choose sustainable, healthy food. Not easy, since most supermarkets are full of "fresh" yet deficient food. As a clinical nutritionist, I am not promoting the "party" line of following the standard Food Pyramid. The "party" that promotes the food pyramid includes government, regular medicine, BigAg, the pharmaceutical industry and even dieticians.

The main interest of government is to get reelected, using contributions from "Big Corp" and pacifying voters. Therefore, governments worldwide have allowed a shift in the last fifty years to promoting eating habits relying heavily in breads and other flour products. In other words, filling our stomachs with junk food, that does not ripen like fresh vegetables and fruits. This is the foundation of the food pyramid, grains. Medical doctors that receive little nutritional education do not have an understanding of the impact of food, good or bad, and its effect on our digestive process; therefore our health. Meanwhile the pharmaceutical industry is growing fatter selling drugs to counteract the debilitating effects of modern food.

The scariest member of the "party" is BigAg that realizes the ultimate monopoly would be control of the world's

food supply. Although not the only multi-national corporation attempting to achieve the ability to dictate what you eat, Monsanto Company appears the most determined. Already infamous for toxic chemicals such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), Agent Orange (which by the way, is about to be sprayed on crop fields in the US) and dioxin, Monsanto's march toward control of the world's food supply is focused on proprietary seeds, genetically modified organisms (GMO's) and pesticides.

No one possessing a food monopoly would be desirable, but Monsanto is particularly frightening. So powerful is the company that they have infiltrated the FDA and influenced a new European Union Seed law which makes it illegal to grow, reproduce or trade any vegetable seed or tree that has not been tested and approved by the "EU Plant Variety Agency. There currently are several petitions to modify and reject this law. I believe it everyone's responsibility to do this or accept the consequences. For more information: www.seedfreedom.in

"Fresh" vegetables and fruit can lose up to 45 percent of their nutritional value between being picked and landing on a grocery shelf. Once picked, a vegetable's nutritional value will immediately start to decline. Add the time it took for your vegetables to get to the store and they're stored in your refrigerator the nutritional value could be completely diminished by the time you eat it. What's more, US international food containers are radiated to prevent disease. Additionally, where are my nutritional carrot, beet, radish, sweet potato greens from my supermarket produce? A bunch of carrots without

their tops is not complete. The leaves of carrot are edible and are highly nutritive, rich in protein, minerals and vitamins. They contain 6 times the vitamin C of the root and are a great source of potassium and calcium. Sweet potato leaves, raw are low in Saturated Fat and Sodium and Cholesterol. They are also a good source of Protein, Niacin, Calcium and Iron, and a very good source of Dietary Fiber, Vitamin A, Vitamin C, Thiamin, Riboflavin, Vitamin B6, Folate, Magnesium, Phosphorus, Potassium and Manganese.

The University of Texas Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry in December 2004 published in the Journal of the American College of Nutrition what is happening to our food. Researchers studied U.S. Department of Agriculture nutritional data from both 1950 and 1999 for 43 different vegetables and fruits, finding "reliable declines" in the amount of protein, calcium, phosphorus, iron, riboflavin (vitamin B2) and vitamin C over the past half century. Davis and his colleagues chalk this up to agricultural practices designed to improve traits (size, growth rate, pest resistance) other than nutrition. And, it's getting worse the land devoted to growing GM crops has increased 100 times since 1996.

People are beginning to buy local, but here in Aruba as in all modern societies, through compliance, propaganda and other factors, our family farms have lost out to convenience "foods" so local is not available. What to do? I have been recommending for years taking quality dietary supplements to offset poor food options, but this year, Phyllis and I have become food revolutionaries. Instead of complaining about the rising cost of food, the lack of taste and worrying

that the tomatoes from the store have been genetically modified with salmon and rubber tree genes, we are joining the "growing revolution" of people who are saying NO to BigAg and growing our own vegetables. We are cooking with technically advanced cookware that does not rob nutrients from food. Not cooking with high heat, water or oil used traditionally to cook food; we are not cooking out the nutrition. Picking fresh, organically grown beans, salad greens and fruit and eating it the same day is a culinary treat packed with health benefits.

Before you get scared off with visions of backbreaking labor in the field, or worry that you may not have the space or best soil, there are methods to grow your own food under nearly any condition. You would be surprised what can be grown in one tenth of a square meter, a square foot garden. Such a small plot is manageable, not expensive, uses a minimal amount of water and when grown organically, is earth and family friendly.

Square foot gardening is the practice of planning and creating small but intensively planted gardens. The practice combines concepts from other organic gardening methods, including a strong focus on compost, densely planted raised beds and use of a small, clearly defined area. This method is particularly well-suited for areas with poor soil, beginner gardeners or as adaptive recreation for those with disabilities. Sure, I still recommend taking your vitamins, choosing foods good for your blood type, but it is easier to start growing fresh than you think.

Get The Point! Join the growing food revolutionaries that want to control what we

eat. Look what the food pyramid and BigAg has provided the world, skyrocketing obesity and increasing medical problems. Starting fresh with a small vegetable garden or even a balcony herb tower is easy and has many health benefits. Check our Facebook page for pictures and tips of our garden. To learn about Square foot Gardening: www.squarefootgardening.com For nutrition tips visit clinic or pick up a copy of my book. Start fresh this year, by giving love and attention to your own nourishment, it is good for the body, mind and soul. Our next Cooking Healthy Brunch is: 02 Feb, call for tickets.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a US Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist specializing in Age Management, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, St Cruz TEL: 585-1270 Web Site: www.vianaheal.com

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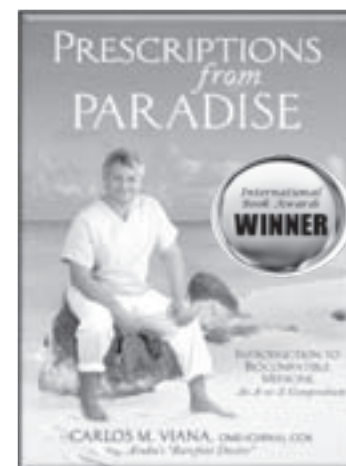
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Appeals court sets aside Internet rules

PETE YOST

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S. appeals court Tuesday set aside Federal Communications Commission rules designed to ensure that transmission of all Internet content be treated equally, a setback for the Obama administration's goal of Internet openness.

The anti-discrimination and anti-blocking requirements bar broadband providers from prioritizing some types of Internet traffic over others.

A three-judge panel said that the FCC has the authority to regulate broadband providers' treatment of Internet traffic. However, the judges concluded that the FCC failed to establish that its regulations don't overreach.

"Even though the commission has general authority to regulate in this arena, it may not impose requirements" that violate statutory mandates, wrote appeals judge David Tatel. The judges said the FCC's rule in effect treated all Internet service providers as common carriers — transporters of people or goods for the general public on regular routes at set rates. Examples of common carriers include airlines, railroads, trucking companies and utilities.

But the court said the commission itself already had classified broadband providers as exempt from treatment as common carriers, which set up a legal contradiction. The FCC failed to establish that its regulations do not impose common



This undated image released by YouTube Nation shows host Jacob Soboroff on the set of "YouTube Nation." The five-minute "YouTube Nation" program will post weekdays at 9 p.m. Eastern Time/6 p.m. Pacific Time starting Tuesday, Jan 14, 2014.

Associated Press

carrier obligations on the Internet companies, the judges ruled.

FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler said the commission will now consider its options, including an appeal, to ensure that networks on which the Internet depends provide a free and open platform. The decision empowers leading Internet providers to decide which Internet services — such as Netflix movies, YouTube videos, news stories and more — they would allow to be transmitted to consumers over their networks. In some cases,

Internet providers such as Verizon, AT&T and cable companies can demand that Google, for example, pay them to ensure that YouTube videos are accessible to all their consumers, or Google could pay extra to ensure that Youtube videos are delivered faster.

The court said it was aware of concerns expressed by supporters of the FCC policy of what might happen if the rules were overturned — as they have been.

"For example, a broadband provider like Comcast might

limit its end-user subscribers' ability to access the New York Times website if it wanted to spike traffic to its own news website, or it might degrade the quality of the connection to a search website like Bing if a competitor like Google paid for prioritized access," the court said. Tatel was appointed to the court by President Bill Clinton. The other two appeals judges on the case were Judith Rogers, a Clinton appointee, and Laurence Silberman, an appointee of President Ronald Reagan. □

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Charters' offer for Time Warner Cable unsettles industry

DAVID GELLES

© 2014 New York Times

Charter Communications sought to upend the cable television industry this week, offering \$37.8 billion to acquire Time Warner Cable, the country's second-largest cable operator.

If successful, Charter would take control of a leader in the lucrative business of providing cable television, high-speed Internet and phone services to millions of Americans' homes, placing itself in direct competition with Comcast, the industry leader.

But Charter, a smaller cable operator, faces several hurdles in its pursuit of Time Warner Cable. And Time Warner Cable made it clear that it was not interested in doing a deal at that price.

Moreover, Charter has yet to win over Time Warner Cable's management, or its shareholders.

Charter, backed by Liberty Media, owned by billionaire John C. Malone, has been courting Time Warner Cable for months. But efforts to enter into detailed discussions about a deal have failed. So instead of pursuing negotiations, Charter is taking its case directly to shareholders. It will begin making its case to major owners of Time Warner stock, seeking to persuade them to vote for a deal. Charter also faces the possibility that Comcast, the country's largest cable operator, will make an offer of its own for Time Warner Cable. The two companies have had talks about a deal in recent months. "Charter has just put the ball in play," said Jim Nail, analyst at Forrester Research. "I would be very surprised not to see someone else come in."

Time Warner Cable said its board had unanimously rejected the proposal, which it called "grossly inadequate." "Charter's latest proposal is a non-starter," Robert D. Marcus, Time Warner Cable's chief executive, said in a statement Monday. □

Stocks bounce back a day after big loss

STEVE ROTHWELL

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP)—

The good followed the bad for the U.S. stock market on Tuesday. One day after logging its worst performance of the year, the stock market bounced back with its best day of 2014. The Standard & Poor's 500 index climbed more than 1 percent, erasing most of its loss from a day earlier. Technology

ported Tuesday. That was better than the increase of 0.4 percent forecast by economists.

While the rise in December sales was modest, it helped ease investors' concerns about the health of the economy after a surprisingly weak jobs report was published on Friday.

"This is a preview of what 2014 will be like...it's going to be more volatile than it

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 115.92 points, or 0.7 percent, to close at 16,373.86, just below of its high of the day. The Nasdaq composite rose 69.71 points, or 1.7 percent, to 4,183.02. Technology companies rose 1.9 percent, the most of the 10 sectors that make up the S&P 500. Intel climbed \$1.01, or 4 percent, to \$26.51 after analysts at JPMorgan

company, forecasting that its earnings next year could be better than most analysts are expecting.

Stocks have had a sluggish start to the year after an exceptional 2013. The S&P 500 is down 0.5 percent in January after climbing nearly 30 percent last year. Despite the slow start, many investors remain optimistic that stocks will end this year higher as well, and that the current slump will wind up being a pause rather than a collapse.

"Valuations have been certainly been pushed higher, so (stocks) are no longer cheap," said Eric Wiegand, senior portfolio manager at U.S. Bank Wealth Management. "But we would contend that they are still fair."

Investors were also watching results from two big banks. JPMorgan Chase, the nation's biggest bank by assets, rose 4 cents, or 0.1 percent, to \$57.74 after reporting gains in most of its divisions except for investment banking.

Wells Fargo rose 3 cents, or 0.1 percent, to \$45.59 after the nation's biggest mortgage lender reported a sharp drop in its mortgage business even as its bottom-line income rose 11 percent.

The outlook for bank earnings should improve as the economy strengthens said, Jerry Braakman, chief investment officer at First American Trust. Banks should also get a lift as long-term interest rates rise, helping them to lift the margins on their lending, he said. □



Traders gather at a post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2014. Stocks rebounded on Wall Street Tuesday as the market turned positive after its worst day in two months. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

stocks led the gains as Wall Street analysts raised their assessments of Intel and electronics company Jabil Circuit. A report on retail sales also boosted investor confidence. Excluding spending on autos, gas and building supplies, sales increased 0.7 percent in December, the Commerce Department re-

was last year," said Andres Garcia-Amaya, a global market strategist at JPMorgan Funds. "The market's bouncing back and saying the world's not ending, things are pointing in the right direction."

The S&P 500 index gained 19.68 points, or 1.1 percent, to 1,838.88, its biggest gain since Dec. 18.

raised their rating on the chipmaker's stock and predicted that demand for PCs will stabilize this year and that the company's CEO will focus on improving margins and returns.

Jabil Circuit jumped \$1.30, or 7.8 percent, to \$17.89 after Goldman Sachs recommended buying the stock of the electronics

GM global sales hit 9.7M last year, beats VW

DETROIT (AP) — General Motors sold 9.71 million cars and trucks last year, probably not enough to beat out Toyota for the global sales crown, but about 200,000 better than Volkswagen.

Toyota, the sales champion in 2012, will report its sales next week. It only needs to show a little growth to beat GM again. GM said Tuesday that sales of light vehicles worldwide grew 4 percent in 2013, led

by growth in China and the United Kingdom. The company's sales in China rose 11 percent to set a record. U.S. sales were up 7 percent, slightly below the market's growth of nearly 8 percent. Volkswagen said Monday that it sold 9.5 million light vehicles last year, setting a company record for overall sales.

Toyota sold roughly 9.7 million cars and trucks in 2012, recapturing the lead it

ceded to GM in 2011.

GM was the top-selling carmaker for more than seven decades before losing the title to Toyota in 2008. But GM retook the sales crown in 2011 when Toyota's factories were slowed by an earthquake and tsunami in Japan. The disaster left Toyota dealers with few cars to sell. The Japanese company has since recovered.

Both companies say pub-

licly that they don't care about who wins, but concede that the crown is an important morale booster for employees.

Toyota's global sales for the first nine months of the year reached 7.41 million vehicles, little changed from the previous year but outpacing General Motors to keep its lead over GM. Detroit-based GM sold 7.25 million vehicles from January through September. □

Data breaches costly for everyone

Lawrence Budd

Dave Larsen

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DAYTON, Ohio -- Security breaches at major retailers including Target and Neiman Marcus in which thieves stole payment card information from millions of customers could erode consumer confidence, and have costly and lasting effects for those companies, retail experts said.

Target Corp. last week disclosed that the massive data theft was significantly more extensive and affected millions more shoppers than the company reported in December.

On Saturday, luxury retailer Neiman Marcus confirmed that hackers stole credit and debit card information from up to 1 million customers and made unauthorized charges over the 2013 holiday season.

It is unclear if Target customers saw unauthorized charges as a result of the breach.

"This is going to affect those retailers, especially Target, in a very negative way," said Serdar Durmusoglu, a University of Dayton associate professor of marketing.

Shoppers said they would continue to shop at Target, although personal and payment card information for up to 110 million customers was stolen in a pre-Christmas data breach. Minneapolis-based Target, the nation's second-largest discount retailer, has 1,792 stores in the U.S.

"I'm not really too worried," said Ann Mort of Middletown, Ohio. "I've been to Target since then and used a credit card."

Credit and debit card information from 40 million Target customers was taken during the breach that happened from Nov. 27 to Dec. 15. An internal investigation revealed that names, mailing addresses, phone numbers or email addresses for up to 70 Target million customers also may be at risk. Some overlap exists between the two groups, officials said.

Target officials said the breach was caused by malicious software, known as "malware," that was installed on point-of-sale registers at its U.S. stores.

"It looks like something was clearly lacking in their software, that they weren't able to detect this," Durmusoglu said. Beyond personal and payment card information, Target could have access to customers' medical information through its pharmacies, and driver's license data through liquor sales, he said.

Retailers use information systems to manage customer relationships, but databases containing lucrative consumer data are attractive targets for hackers and identity thieves, experts said.

According to the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, more than 662 million records have been involved in data security breaches since 2005.

In 2007, more than 90 million records were stolen from TJX Cos. Inc., the parent company of T.J. Maxx and Marshalls. The incident cost the retail chain a reported \$256 million.

"It took them some years to recover from it, not only with respect to customer trust, but with respect to paying for some of those credit cards being misused," Durmusoglu said.

Consumers are protected against data breaches by federal and state law.

The Ohio Attorney General's Office has enforcement authority over the state's Security Breach Notification Act and violations under the Consumer Sales Practices Act. "There is no relevant public legal action to discuss," said Kate Hanson, a spokeswoman for the AG's office.

Continued on page 27

Wells Fargo earnings rise 11 percent

The Associated Press

Fourth-quarter profit for Wells Fargo & Co., the biggest U.S. mortgage lender, jumped 11 percent as a steep drop in mortgage lending was offset by increased interest income. Net income after dividend payments on preferred stock rose to \$5.4 billion in the October-December period from \$4.9 billion a year earlier.

On a per-share basis, earnings were \$1, slightly above the 99 cents forecast by Wall Street analysts.

Fourth-quarter revenue fell to \$20.7 billion from \$21.9

billion.

The rise in rates on U.S. mortgages in the latter part of last year continued to have a negative impact on Wells Fargo's mortgage business. The San Francisco-based bank, which is the fourth-largest U.S. bank by assets, controls about a third of the U.S. mortgage market. Much of its lending business has been coming from mortgage refinancing, which was reduced by the spike in interest rates.

Wells Fargo funded \$50 billion worth of mortgages in the fourth quarter, down from \$125 billion a year ear-

lier.

The bank has cut about 5,700 jobs, most of them related to its mortgage business, since the end of September.

At the same time, net interest income increased \$55 million to \$10.8 billion as the bank earned more on the securities it held and from trading.

Wells Fargo's stock fell 49 cents, or 1.1 percent, to \$45.07 in early trading.

Wells Fargo CEO John Stumpf says the improving prospects for the U.S. economy will help the bank perform strongly this year. □



This photo shows a JPMorgan Chase bank building in New York. JPMorgan Chase said Tuesday that its profits fell 7 percent in the fourth quarter of 2013.

(AP Photo/Kathy Willens)

JPMorgan 4Q profit falls 7% on legal costs

KEN SWEET

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — JPMorgan Chase said Tuesday that its profits fell 7 percent in the fourth quarter, hampered by more legal woes and a decline in the bank's investment banking business.

The bank reported net income of \$5.28 billion in the last three months of 2013, down from \$5.69 billion in the same period a year earlier.

On a per-share basis, JPMorgan said it earned \$1.30 a share in the quarter, compared with \$1.39 a share a year earlier. The bank's revenue fell 1 percent to \$24.1 billion.

The bank's most recent results had several one-time items, including a 27-cent-per-share charge related to legal expenses. On an adjusted basis, the bank said it earned \$1.40 per share. One of those legal expenses was the settle-

ment over the bank's involvement in the Ponzi scheme of Bernard Madoff. The bank agreed Jan. 8 to pay \$1.7 billion to settle criminal charges stemming from its failure to report its concerns about Madoff's private investment service. "It was in the best interests of our company and shareholders for us to accept responsibility, resolve these issues and move forward," JPMorgan CEO Jamie Dimon said in a statement. □

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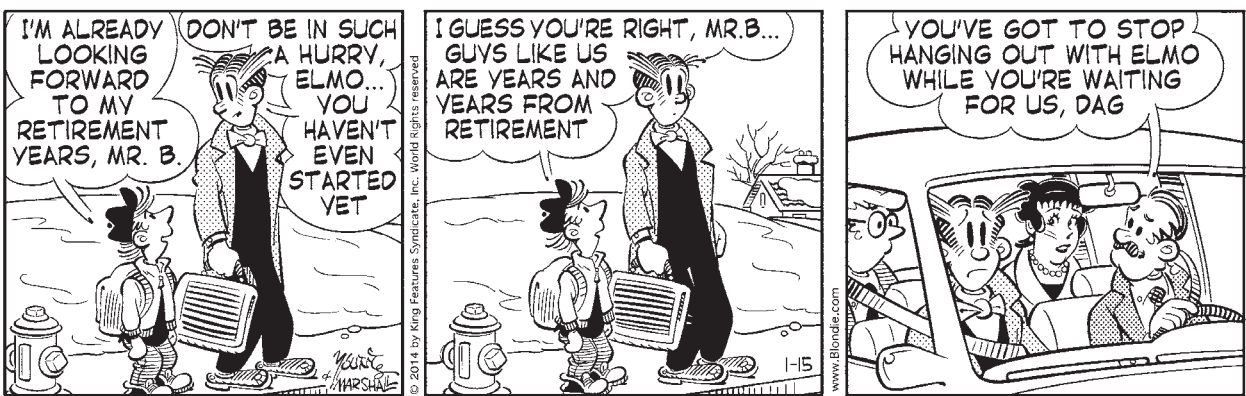
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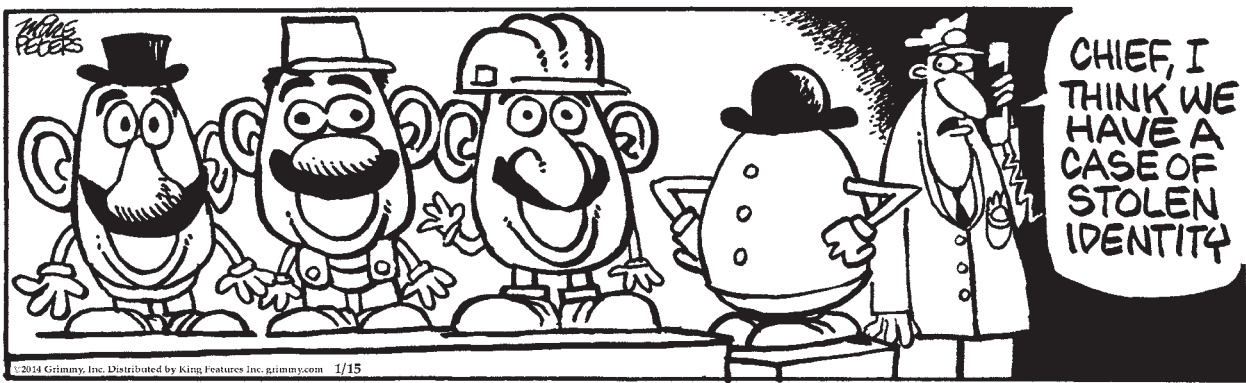
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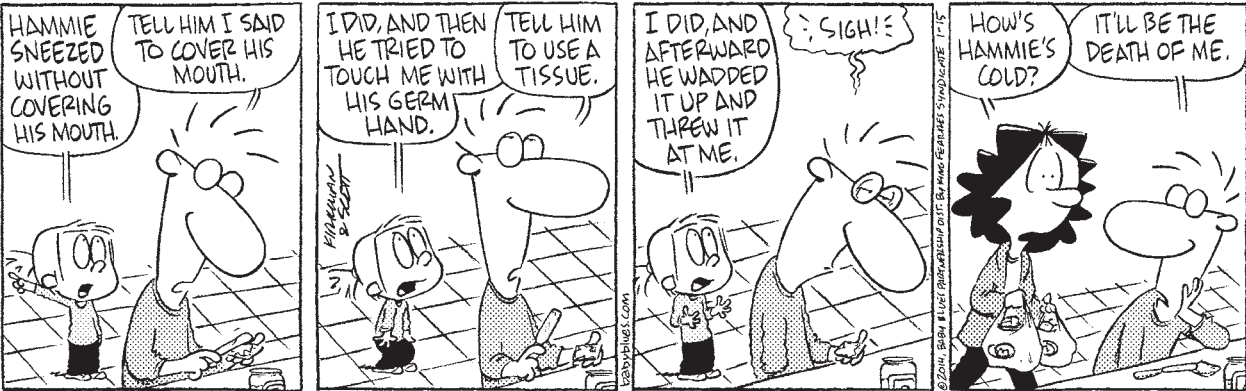
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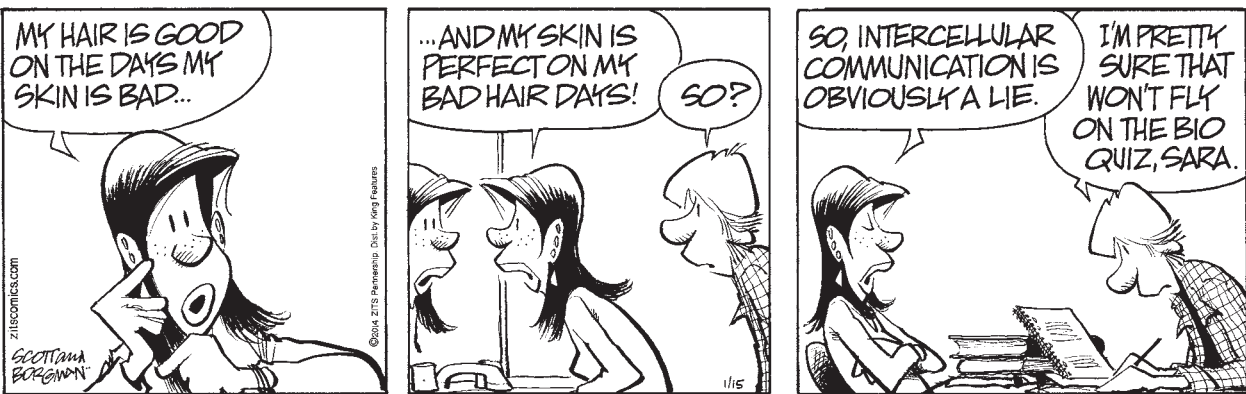
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			1	6	4			
		7				6		
		5				9		
	1	3	7	4	9	8	2	
	9						6	
	5			1			3	
	3			2			9	
	2						7	
		4	3	9	6	5		

Difficulty Level ★★

1/15

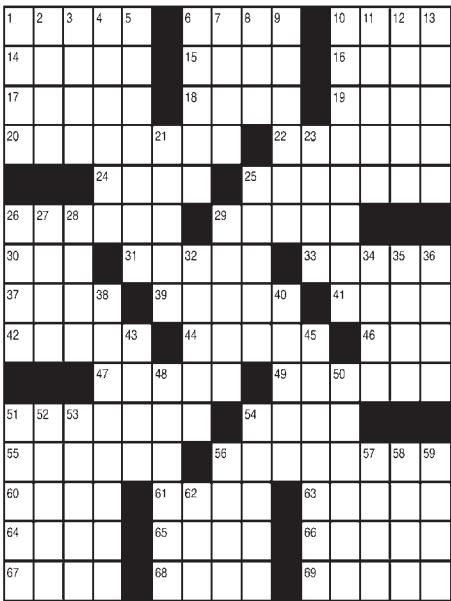
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

9	4	7	6	3	8	5	2	1
3	8	1	2	5	7	9	6	4
5	6	2	4	1	9	8	3	7
4	5	6	1	7	2	3	9	8
7	9	3	5	8	4	2	1	6
1	2	8	3	9	6	7	4	5
2	3	5	8	6	1	4	7	9
6	7	4	9	2	5	1	8	3
8	1	9	7	4	3	6	5	2

ACROSS

- 1 Santa's helpers
- 6 Take a __ at; attempt
- 10 "For __", Realtor's sign
- 14 Clamor
- 15 Item in Superman's wardrobe
- 16 Eve's husband
- 17 Waltz or twist
- 18 In the sack
- 19 Intl. military alliance
- 20 Tennis shoes
- 22 Spending plan
- 24 Stack
- 25 Harsh and unadorned
- 26 Rely
- 29 Striped cat
- 30 " __ Maria"
- 31 Kelly & Wilder
- 33 Harangues
- 37 Tennis court dividers
- 39 Win, after trailing earlier
- 41 Mope
- 42 __ Dane; very tall dog
- 44 Catch some Z's
- 46 __Wan Kenobi
- 47 Ship poles
- 49 Felt-tipped pen
- 51 Galore
- 54 Lima's nation
- 55 Citrus fruit
- 56 Handrail
- 60 Staple grain
- 61 "Beowulf" or "Paradise Lost"
- 63 Put __; set out of the way
- 64 Golf ball pegs
- 65 Impolite
- 66 Row of shrubs
- 67 Finds a total
- 68 Raced
- 69 Spirited horse



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

1/15/14

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

PUBS	ANDES	SPAT
ATOP	REACH	PALE
SARA	STYLE	ARMS
THERMOS	ADDRESS	
KEN	WISER	
ATOLL	PER	PEACE
PACE	TEA	DODDER
ABC	RETREAT	ADO
ROUSED	INN	AGED
TORAH	RED	SUEDE
DARED	MAC	
HANDBAG	BOTTLES	
EVIL	VALET	IOWA
ROLE	ELATE	OPEN
ONES	NEPAL	NERD

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1/15/14

DOWN

- 1 Loose __; bits of unfinished business
- 2 Bank's offering
- 3 Climbing plant
- 4 Get away
- 5 Looking for
- 6 Frighten
- 7 Keep __ on; watch closely
- 8 Make fun of
- 9 Tiny insect that gets in sheets
- 10 Golf course hazard
- 11 Saying
- 12 Procrastinator's word
- 13 Get dramatic
- 21 Parent or grandparent
- 23 Drug addict
- 25 Supermarket walkway
- 26 "Phooey!"
- 27 At any time
- 28 Singer Seeger
- 29 Blabs
- 32 Unpleasant
- 34 Cranny
- 35 Test __; narrow glass vial
- 36 __-crazy; feeling pent-up

- 38 Uniformity
- 40 Asian nation
- 43 Orangey drink
- 45 Social outcasts
- 48 Takes the helm
- 50 Potato type
- 51 Vital artery
- 52 Used a lever
- 53 Intertwined
- 54 Walked the floor
- 56 __ one's time; wait
- 57 Laundry detergent
- 58 Margin
- 59 Walter or Rex
- 62 Young dog

Data breaches

Continued from page 25

The AG's office also offers tips and assistance to consumers who suspect they have been victims of data breaches.

"Consumers should be vigilant in reviewing their credit card statements for mysterious or unfamiliar charges. If they find suspicious charges, they should contact their bank or credit card provider," Hanson said.

JPMorgan Chase Bank last month temporarily limited 2 million potentially affected customers' use of debit cards and Chase Liquid cards at ATMs and for purchases until new cards could be reissued, said Emily Smith, a Chase spokeswoman.

"We continue to monitor our customers' accounts with sophisticated tools," Smith said. "We encourage our customers to monitor their accounts and contact us if they see any transactions they don't recognize."

Electronic Benefit Transfer recipients should contact their agency and local authorities."

Less than 10 percent of Chase's customers were affected by the Target breach, she said.

The U.S. lacks strong federal laws regarding data breaches, leaving it for states to address, said Thaddeus Hoffmeister, a UD professor of law. "Some states, like California, have pretty good laws; other states, not so much," he said.

Hoffmeister said Congress should establish national standards for reporting data breaches, as well as tougher penalties for companies whose information is accessed improperly.

Target has apologized and advised customers "they will have zero liability for the cost of any fraudulent charges arising from the breach."

The company also said customers will have until April 30 to sign up for one year of free credit monitoring and identity theft protection for all guests who shopped in Target stores in the U.S. □

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Resales

Aruba Divi Phoenix

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201099

RED/RE-SALE

Eagle Beach Front

Amsterdam Manor 52 weeks 2 bedr, 2 bath \$450K info: (297)562-0712 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

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RED/WEEK

Resales

Marriott Surf Club

3x2Br garden view Platinum \$15,000 each Marriott Ocean Club 1 Br ocean front Platinum \$29,000 info: (297)562-0712 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

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201072

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AMBULANCE	584-5050

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Foundation Amor

pa Prohimo

Tel: 583-3345 /586-6976

Women in Difficulties

Foundation

Tel: 583-5400

Bloodbank Aruba

Tel: 587-0002

Swedish doctors transplant wombs into 9 women

**MALIN RISING
MARIA CHENG
Associated Press**

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Nine women in Sweden have successfully received transplanted wombs donated from relatives in an experimental procedure that has raised some ethical concerns. The women will soon try to become pregnant with their new wombs, the doctor in charge of the pioneering project has revealed.

The women were born without a uterus or had it removed because of cervical cancer. Most are in their 30s and are part of the first major experiment to test whether it's possible to transplant wombs into women so they can give birth to their own children. In many European countries, including Sweden, using a surrogate to carry a pregnancy isn't allowed. Life-saving transplants of organs such as hearts, livers and kidneys have been done for decades and doctors are increasingly transplanting hands, faces and other body parts to improve patients' quality of life. Womb transplants — the first ones intended to be temporary, just to allow childbearing — push that frontier even farther and raise some new concerns. There have been two previous attempts to transplant a womb — in Turkey and Saudi Arabia — but both failed to produce babies. Scientists in Britain, Hungary and elsewhere are also planning similar operations but the efforts in Sweden are the most advanced.

"This is a new kind of surgery," Dr. Mats Brannstrom told The Associated Press in an interview from Goteborg. "We have no textbook to look at."

Brannstrom, chair of the obstetrics and gynecology department at the University of Gothenburg, is leading the initiative. Next month, he and colleagues will run the first-ever workshop on how to perform womb transplants and they plan to publish a scientific report on their efforts soon.

Some experts have raised concerns about whether it's ethical to use live donors for an experimental procedure that doesn't save lives. But John Harris, a bioethics expert at the University of Manchester, didn't see a problem with that as long as donors are fully informed. He said donating kidneys isn't necessarily life-saving, yet is widely promoted.

"Dialysis is available, but we have come to accept and to even encourage people to take risks to donate a kidney," he said. Brannstrom said the nine womb recipients are doing well. Many already had their periods six weeks after the transplants, an early sign that the wombs are healthy and functioning. One woman had an infection in her newly received uterus and others had some minor rejection episodes, but none of the recipients or donors needed intensive care after the surgery, Brannstrom said. All left the hospital within days.

None of the women who donated or received wombs has been identified. The transplants began in September 2012 and the donors include mothers and other relatives of the recipients. The team had initially planned to do 10 transplants, but one woman couldn't proceed due to medical reasons, university spokesman Krister Svahn said.

The transplant operations did not connect the women's uteruses to their fallopian tubes, so they are unable to get pregnant naturally. But all who received a womb have their own ovaries and can make eggs. Before the operation, they had some removed to create embryos through in-vitro fertilization. The embryos were then frozen and doctors plan to transfer them into the new wombs, allowing the women to carry their own biological children.

The transplants have ignited hope among women unable to have children because they lost a uterus to cancer or were born



In this April 4, 2012 photo made available by the University of Goteborg in Sweden, the Swedish research team practices before the operations to transplant wombs at the Sahlgrenska Hospital in Goteborg, Sweden.

Associated Press

without one. About one in 4,500 is born with a syndrome, known as MRKH, where she doesn't have a womb.

Lise Gimre, 35, who was born without a womb, said she thought many women with MRKH would be interested if the operation proves to be safe and effective.

Gimre runs an organization for women with the syndrome in Norway.

"If this had been possible when I was younger, no doubt I would have been interested," she said. Gimre, who has two foster children, said the only option for women like her to have biological children is via surrogacy, which is illegal in many European countries, including Norway and Sweden.

Fertility experts have hailed the project as significant but stress it's unknown whether the transplants will result in healthy babies.

The technique used in Sweden, using live donors, is somewhat controversial. In Britain, doctors are also planning to perform uterus transplants, but will only use wombs from dying or dead people. That was also the case in Turkey. Last year, Turkish doctors announced their patient got pregnant

but the pregnancy failed after two months.

"Mats has done something amazing and we understand completely why he has taken this route, but we are wary of that approach," said Dr. Richard Smith, head of the U.K. charity Womb Transplant UK, which is trying to raise 500,000 pounds (\$823,000) to carry out five operations in Britain.

He said removing a womb for donation is like a radical hysterectomy but it requires taking a bigger chunk of the surrounding blood vessels to ensure adequate blood flow, raising the risk of complications for the donor. Smith said British officials don't consider it ethical to let donors take such chances for an operation that isn't considered life-saving.

Smith said the biggest question is how any pregnancies will proceed.

"The principal concern for me is if the baby will get enough nourishment from the placenta and if the blood flow is good enough," he said.

All of the women who received womb transplants will need to take anti-rejection medicines, but Smith said data from women who have received kidney

transplants doesn't suggest their babies are at any increased risk from the drugs. Brannstrom said using live donors allowed them to ensure the donated wombs were functional and didn't have any problems like an HPV infection.

Doctors in Saudi Arabia performed the first womb transplant in 2000, using a live donor, but it had to be removed after three months because of a blood clot.

Brannstrom said he and his colleagues hope to start transferring embryos into some of their patients soon, possibly within months. The Swedish researchers and others have previously reported successful uterus transplants in animals including mice, sheep and baboons, but no offspring from the primates were produced.

After a maximum of two pregnancies, the wombs will be removed so the women can stop taking the anti-rejection drugs, which can cause high blood pressure, swelling and diabetes and may also raise the risk of some types of cancer.

Other experts said if the operations are successful, womb transplants could be an alternative for women who have few choices. □



This Dec. 13, 2013 file photo shows Robin Thicke performing at Z100's Jingle Ball 2013 at Madison Square Garden in New York. Associated Press

Gaye children, Sony settle in 'Blurred Lines' case

MESFIN FEKADU
AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Marvin Gaye's children have settled claims against a music company owned by Sony over Robin Thicke's Grammy-nominated hit song "Blurred Lines."

The Gayes had accused EMI of not pursuing a copyright infringement case against Thicke because "Blurred Lines" has similarities to Gaye's "Got to Give It Up."

A Los Angeles judge on Tuesday granted Nona Marvisa Gaye and Frankie Christian Gaye's dismissal of their lawsuit against EMI, which is owned by Sony/ATV Music Publishing. Documents say the Gayes and Sony have an agreement and claims against Sony can't be brought again. Terms of the settlement weren't disclosed.

Dueling lawsuits between the Gaye family and Thicke remain active.

Thicke and his collaborators T.I. and Pharrell Williams asked a federal judge in August to rule they didn't copy "Got to Give It Up" for "Blurred Lines," which is nominated for record of the year and other awards at the Jan. 26 Grammy Awards. Their song has sold 6.6 million tracks and was last year's biggest hit. It spent 12 weeks on top of the Billboard Hot 100 chart. Gaye's children accused the performers in October of copying elements of his music for "Blurred

Lines." Their lawsuit sought to block Thicke from using elements of their father's music in other songs and claimed Thicke improperly used Gaye's "After the Dance" for his No. 1 R&B hit "Love After War."

Representatives for Sony, Thicke and the Gaye family didn't immediately reply to emails seeking comment on Tuesday.

Marvin Gaye, whose other hit songs include "Sexual Healing" and "Let's Get It On," was shot dead by his father in 1984. □

Kristen Stewart 'terrified' to film 'Equals'

JESSICA HERNDON
AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kristen Stewart has signed on to play the lead in "Like Crazy" director Drake Doremus' futuristic love story "Equals," and it's making her a nervous wreck.

"I can't believe I agreed to do it," said the "Twilight" actress about her upcoming role in the sci-fi drama, which also stars Nicholas Hoult of the upcoming "X-Men: Days of Future Past." Stewart describes "Equals" as a slightly updated version of the 1956 film "1984," based on George Orwell's classic 1949 novel about rebellion in a repressed futuristic society. "Equals" begins filming later this year.

"I'm terrified of it," said the 23-year-old actress in a recent interview. "Though it's a movie with a really basic



This April 4, 2009 file photo shows Paul McCartney, left, and Ringo Starr performing at the Change Begins Within Concert in New York. Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The Grammys weekend is shaping up to be a Beatles weekend. The Recording Academy announced Tuesday that Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr will perform at the Jan. 26 awards show in Los Angeles. The Beatles will be honored at the Academy's Special

Merits Awards the day before, and a day after the big show, the iconic group will be the center of a performance special featuring Eurythmics and other acts playing Beatles hits. McCartney's nominations include best rock song and music film. Other Grammy performers include Taylor

Swift, Macklemore & Ryan Lewis, Kendrick Lamar, Robin Thicke and Katy Perry. Sara Bareilles will sing with Carole King, while Stevie Wonder, Daft Punk, Nile Rodgers and Pharrell will perform together.

The Grammys will air live on CBS from the Staples Center. □



In this March 23, 2013 file photo, actress Kristen Stewart arrives at the 26th annual Nickelodeon's Kids' Choice Awards, in Los Angeles. Associated Press

concept, it's overtly ambitious."

"In 'Equals,' things go wrong because you can't deny the humanity in everyone," said Stewart. "It's the most devastating story." Adds Doremus of his sixth film: "It's about love in a world where love really

doesn't exist anymore." Written by Nathan Parker ("Moon"), "Equals" is the first film Doremus will direct that he didn't write himself. "I trust Drake's process and I know we will do something really natural and real," said Stewart. "But I told Drake, 'Don't expect

that I am going to be able to do this. It's too hard.' But he wouldn't take 'no' for an answer. I've given directors disclaimers before, but never this much."

Jennifer Lawrence, who appeared in 2011's "Like Crazy," was one of the first actresses to read Parker's script. Though the story brought her to tears, she couldn't see herself in the role, said Doremus.

"It became evident in my head that Nick and Kristen would have great chemistry," the director said.

"It's a love story of epic, epic, epic proportion," added Stewart. "I'm scared."

This week, the actress heads to the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, where she'll star in writer-director Peter Sattler's soldier film "Camp X-Ray." □

Seth MacFarlane brings his love of science to TV

BETH HARRIS

Associated Press

PASADENA, California

(AP) — Seth MacFarlane, creator of "Family Guy," is bringing his love of space exploration to television. He's the executive producer of "Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey," a 13-part series that will debut March 9 on Fox. It will also air on the National Geographic Channel.

Best known for his profane animated series and Oscar-hosting duties last year, MacFarlane's head has been in the stars since he first saw Carl Sagan's original "Cosmos: A Personal Voyage" as a youth.

MacFarlane suggested to "Cosmos" host Neil deGrasse Tyson that the show should be pitched to Fox to attract a broader audience.



Executive producer Seth MacFarlane speaks during the panel for "Cosmos" at the FOX Winter 2014 TCA, on Monday, Jan. 13, 2014, at the Langham Hotel in Pasadena, Calif.

Associated Press

"I was pleasantly greeted with enthusiasm, and I didn't have to stop doing Stewie or anything," MacFarlane told the Television Critics Association on Monday. □

Ashlee Simpson engaged to marry Diana Ross' son

NEW YORK (AP) —

Ashlee Simpson is ready to give marriage another try. The actress and singer is engaged to boyfriend Evan Ross, who is the son of Diana Ross.

The pair announced the news Monday on Twitter and it was confirmed by Simpson's publicist, Janet Ringwood.

Twenty-nine year old Simpson and 25-year-old Ross went public as a couple last summer.

Simpson was previously married to Fall Out Boy bassist



Ashlee Simpson, right, and Evan Ross arrive at the Los Angeles premiere of "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire" at Nokia Theatre LA Live on Monday, Nov. 18, 2013.

Associated Press

Pete Wentz. They have a 5-year-old son, Bronx. Evan Ross is an actor who will appear in the final two film installments of "The Hunger Games." □



This image released by NBC shows Jason Beghe as Detective Sgt. Hank Voight, left, and Sophia Bush as Erin Lindsay in a scene from "Chicago P.D." Centered on the Chicago Police Department's scrappy Intelligence Unit, the series by Dick Wolf pits Voight and his team against the worst killers, drug traffickers and mobsters the Windy City can deliver. The series airs Wednesdays at 10 p.m. on NBC.

Associated Press

A new novel from Dick Wolf joins his TV empire

FRAZIER MOORE

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Hours before last week's premiere of his new series, "Chicago P.D.," Dick Wolf acknowledged he was nervous. Actually, "terrified" was the word he used.

This from a TV impresario whose credits include the hydra-headed "Law & Order" franchise and whose shows have been a prime-time mainstay every season for a quarter-century — a feat likely unmatched by any other producer.

Wolf's "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit" is in its 15th season, airing Wednesdays at 9 p.m. EST on NBC.

"Cold Justice," a reality series where a former prosecutor and a former crime-scene investigator bring fresh eyes to moribund cases, returns on TNT for its second season on Friday at 8 p.m. EST. (This debut episode revisits the 2001 disappearance of an Altus, Okla., woman whose ex-husband, long a suspect, was arrested only last month with help from the show, then led officials to the woman's buried re-

mains.)

"Chicago Fire," an action drama about big-city firefighters, is midway through its second robust season on NBC, airing Tuesdays at 10 p.m. EST.

And now on NBC at 10 p.m. EST on Wednesdays is "Chicago P.D.," a "Fire" spinoff that could spark a new franchise for Wolf: a "Chicago"-branded portfolio.

Why not? The morning after it premiered, Wolf would learn that a solid 8.6 million viewers had tuned in.

Centered on the Chicago Police Department's scrappy Intelligence Unit, the series pits Detective Sgt. Hank Voight and his team against the worst killers, drug traffickers and mobsters the Windy City can deliver.

A righteous cop who plays dirty when he needs to, Voight is in good hands with series star Jason Beghe in a portrayal that began on last season's "Chicago Fire."

Invoking Detective Sipowicz from "NYPD Blue," Wolf hailed Beghe as "the most interesting cop since Denis Franz."

At 67, Wolf is a veteran producer whose resume reaches back to "Miami Vice" in the mid-1980s, and who, through much of the past two decades, kept the lights on at NBC when it had little else anybody would watch.

His metier is the full-scale broadcast network drama spanning a season of two dozen self-contained episodes, and with it he prospers, even now in an era when edgy cable fare in serialized gulps of a dozen or fewer hours commands much of TV's buzz and critical acclaim.

Wolf drew an analogy between the indie-film model of these cable-TV series as compared with broadcast networks' mainstream-movie paradigm in describing "Chicago P.D." as "a big, old-time television top-drawer series production. Is it retro? Not to me. I just think it's a really good cop show."

But during an interview last Wednesday, there was more on Wolf's mind than his new show. He was also marking the publication of his latest novel. □

Sex Is Not Our Problem



CHARLES M. BLOW
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There is often a simplistic, black-or-white, conservative versus progressive discussion around the dissolution of the traditional family and high single-parent birthrates in America and what these trends may portend for us as a country.

I don't see the argument as completely binary or the problem as intractable. But I do believe that we must focus more on complex areas of causation. We can't look longingly at the halcyon ideals of yore, where marriage held more primacy and premarital sex was considered more depraved.

Those days are gone. But there are ways for us to adjust to a new reality rather than simply bemoan it.

First, the parameters of the problems: According to the Guttmacher Institute, "about half (51 percent) of the 6.6 million pregnancies in the United States each year (3.4 million) are unintended" and "the U.S. unintended pregnancy rate is significantly higher than the rate in many other developed countries." Among teenagers in high-income countries, those in the United States have the highest rates of pregnancy and some sexually transmitted infections, according to a report released last year by the National Research Council and the Institute of Medicine.

This, even though young Americans are not necessarily the most sexually active youth of developed countries, according to a previous Guttmacher report. That report pointed out two important issues. First, "less contraceptive use and less use of hormonal methods are the primary reasons U.S. teenagers have the highest rates of pregnancy, childbearing and abortion." Second, "more sexual partners, a higher prevalence of infection and, probably, less condom use contribute to higher teenage sexually transmitted disease rates in the United States." Now there are things that I assume most Americans still agree on. Most think young people should delay sexual activity until they are mentally and emotionally capable of reasonably consenting and comprehending the consequences. Most want fewer children born to parents unwilling to provide for those children, or incapable of doing so, emotionally or financially. Most want fewer un-

planned and unwanted pregnancies. And most want fewer women to have to face the often wrenching decisions about what to do about such pregnancies.

There are some rather simple ways to move in this direction if we can agree to be less puritanical and more practical. We could, for example, begin teaching young people to value themselves in a way that contextualizes the initiation of sexual activity as a thing fully within their control and not so easily manipulated by peer and societal pressures. Abstinence can be honorable, but it won't be for everyone. Everyone can be affirmed, though, in the fact that they must love themselves enough emotionally to be in control of whom they allow to love them physically, and when. Furthermore, we must provide thorough and unimpeded sex education - in the home and at school - about how to engage in sex safely and responsibly. And, we must provide a full range of reproductive services - prophylactic and contraceptive as well as post-pregnancy. Here we are moving in the wrong direction. A Guttmacher report released last week found that more abortion restrictions were enacted in the last three years than in the previous decade.

Conservatives often stress marriage as a panacea for many of these problems, and indeed, marriage has its benefits. The fewer partners one engages sexually, the lower the risk of encountering disease. And, in terms of having a child, two adults in a home can often do twice as much as one. But, we must respect all family structures and encourage all parents to be active and engaged in child rearing regardless of living arrangements.

Furthermore, much of the discussion about single-parent families and births outside of marriage is focused too heavily on young women and is simply a form of sex shaming that blames them for not being proper guardians of chastity. The shaming itself is a shame, and often inflames the pathology of patriarchy in our culture. We teach boys, overtly and implicitly, that sexual potency is a marker of masculinity and that empathy and emotional depth are purviews of a lesser sex. The ways we force boys to adhere to a perilously narrow reading of masculinity become a form of "oppression all dressed up as awesomeness," as Lisa Wade, an Occidental College sociology professor, put it last month in Salon. Boys are not taught to value themselves as fully human, but only as conquerors of everything - women, the workplace, the world. And men who are incapable of valuing their own humanity are incapable of fully valuing the humanity of a love interest.

We can address our societal problems, but to do so we must first address our societal issues. □



Down To The Last Cigarette?



JOE NOCERA
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This is certainly turning out to be quite the year for 50th anniversaries. Fifty years ago next month, the Beatles made their U.S. debut on "The Ed Sullivan Show." In 1964, President Lyndon Johnson started the War on Poverty. And 50 years ago Saturday, the surgeon general of the United States issued the single most important report that would ever come out of that office. It linked cigarette smoking to illness and death.

It's hard to remember now just how prevalent smoking used to be. In the mid-1960s, around half the men in the country smoked; for women, the number was 35 percent. People smoked in their offices, smoked in restaurants, smoked on airplanes. Indeed, Paul Billings of the American Lung Association recalls that the airlines often gave passengers small packets of cigarettes when they boarded the plane. But by the 1950s, scientists were beginning to equate cigarettes with lung cancer and other fatal diseases, a linkage the tobacco industry vehemently denied. In 1962, the prestigious Royal College of Physicians in Britain issued a report connecting smoking and lung cancer. After seeing that report, Luther Terry, who was then the surgeon general, put together an advisory board and asked it to report back to him on the potential dangers of cigarettes. Did it ever: The advisory board's

subsequent report not only linked smoking to lung cancer but also to emphysema and cardiovascular disease. It labeled cigarettes a health hazard. "In general," it concluded, "the greater the number of cigarettes smoked daily, the higher the death rate."

"It was a landmark report," says Scott Ballin, a longtime tobacco control and public health advocate. For the first time, the full weight of the federal government stood behind the notion that smoking killed. Anti-tobacco groups felt empowered and pressed for changes. In 1965, Congress passed legislation banning cigarette advertising on television - while also forcing the tobacco companies to put a surgeon general's warning on every pack of cigarettes. The tobacco companies fought the legislation, while continuing to deny that cigarettes killed.

And so it went for the next 30 years. The surgeon general would issue reports on, say, nicotine addiction or secondhand smoke. The tobacco companies would deny the obvious. And anti-tobacco activists would push for change.

This culminated with the tobacco wars in the 1990s. With the activists continuing to push hard, and whistle-blowers leaking damning documents, attorneys general around the country sued the tobacco companies and wound up settling for a staggering \$246 billion over 25 years.

And all the while, as Americans learned more about the dangers of tobacco, cigarette smoking dropped, and dropped again. By 2005, the percentage of Americans who smoked was down to 21 percent, a remarkable achievement. But since then, the percentage drops have been much smaller; today, it is estimated that around 18 percent of the country smokes. "Seven out of 10 smokers say they want to quit," says Billings at the lung association, but their addiction is too powerful. More than 400,000 Americans still die prematurely each

year from smoking. Today, thanks to a law passed in 2009, the Food and Drug Administration has the power to regulate tobacco. (Its first set of tobacco regulations has been sitting at the Office of Management and Budget since October.) It's a different environment now, not only because of FDA regulation but because there are now "harm reduction" products, like e-cigarettes, that potentially make it easier for people who want to quit.

Yet many in the public health community have pushed for e-cigarettes to be treated the same as combustible cigarettes; when you have been fighting a war for nearly half a century, it is hard to put down your weapons. Instead of focusing on the potential for e-cigarettes to save lives, they worry instead that the new products will serve as a gateway to smoking - a fear that has yet to show up in any study.

In honor of the 50th anniversary of the surgeon general's report, the Journal of the American Medical Association devoted much of its current issue to tobacco and tobacco control. It published a study showing that the report may have saved as many as 8 million lives.

Another article in the current issue of the journal is by David Abrams, executive director of the Schroeder Institute for Tobacco Research and Policy Studies. He had been among those who had fought in the tobacco wars, but, in recent years, he had come around to the idea that a new way was needed. Yes, he wrote, there needed to be more science around e-cigarettes, and, yes, they should be kept away from minors, and, yes, their advertising shouldn't resemble the old tobacco come-ons. But, he concluded, with proper regulation, e-cigarettes "have the potential to make the combusting of tobacco obsolete."

Which was the whole point of the exercise back in 1964. Maybe it's time for another surgeon general's report. □

Super Bowl foodies ready to devour New Jersey eats!

DAVID PORTER

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.

(AP) — Buffalo wings and chicken fingers, take a breather. Crab dip and curly fries, sit this one out. For Super Bowl foodies, New Jersey offers a mash-up of delicacies representing just about every culture on the planet.

Those fortunate enough to have tickets to the game at MetLife Stadium will be able to gorge on American, Mexican, Asian and Italian specialties, done with a local flair, in the "Home Food Advantage" food court. Club seat ticketholders will get an even more varied menu including sushi, sliced beef tenderloin and garlic shrimp with peppercorn demi-glace, blue crabcake with pickled baby bok choy and lemon aioli, to name a few of a host of offerings.

The food court dishes have local roots, such as Nonna Fusco's homemade meatballs,

a 20-minute drive in any direction from the stadium will land you in the middle of any of a number of ethnic enclaves brimming with culinary treats. And you won't even have to pay a bridge or tunnel toll.

Borgia, who worked as executive chef for baseball's San Diego Padres before coming to work for Delaware North Companies when the stadium opened in 2010, wanted to create a local-themed food court that brought to mind a New York/New Jersey street fair, minus the funnel cakes and \$1.99 three-packs of tube socks. Ideas came during several days of food touring around the area, Borgia said.

"We drove around to food trucks and little holes-in-the-wall where people eat lunch," he said. "We wanted to do street food, but we wanted to make sure it was authentic."

Located on the ground floor of the stadium, it

cheese sandwich featuring two varieties of New York State cheddar pinned between thick slices of Texas toast. Add a slab of bacon on

erty Sausage and its "kitchen sink" sandwich, combining grilled chicken sausage and hot dog with potatoes, peppers and sauce, or a

rean food reigns. Nothing warms better than curry, and Jersey City's Newark Avenue, in the Journal Square area, is chock-full of Indian res-



A patron purchasing food at MetLife Stadium during the first half of an NFL football game in East Rutherford, N.J. Those fortunate enough to have club seat tickets to the Super Bowl at MetLife Stadium will get an exclusive menu at the game including sushi, sliced beef tenderloin and garlic shrimp with peppercorn demi-glace, blue crabcake with pickled baby bok choy and lemon aioli, to name a few of a host of offerings.

(AP Photo/Peter Morgan)

a stick dipped in jalapeño-infused maple syrup and make sure your cardiologist is on speed dial. Next door, Lucky's serves

pork sausage sandwich with fresh spinach and roasted garlic. Nonna's, in addition to its heavenly meatballs, serves pasta and antipasti and is adding a roast pork and broccoli raab sandwich for the Super Bowl. Tacos Raqueros' burritos and tacos should provide enough heat to take your mind off the fact that it is February and you are outside.

Trying to sum up the multitude of food options in the surrounding area is like trying to analyze "Hamlet" in a tweet, but here goes:

The best Cuban sandwiches can be found on almost any corner in Union City, outside the Lincoln Tunnel and overlooking the Hudson River. A few miles north along the river is Mitsuwa Marketplace in Edgewater, billed as the largest Japanese supermarket in the country. Head back up and over the hill and you're in Palisades Park, where Ko-

taurants. In downtown Jersey City, don't miss Taqueria, one of the area's best taco joints, as long as you don't mind the uber-hipster vibe.

Newark, which will host Super Bowl media day on Jan. 28, is home to the Ironbound neighborhood, known for its Portuguese and Spanish flavors and dishes of paella big enough to feed a 53-man roster. Newark also has Hobby's deli, and Calandra's Italian family bakery, both of which have attained well-deserved legendary status. Equally revered is Fiore's in Hoboken, where the fresh "mutz" (mozzarella) melts in your mouth and the friendly servers make what some consider the perfect sandwich. For cheaper eats and an authentic New Jersey experience, Libby's Lunch (Paterson) and Rutt's Hut (Clifton) are masters of that humble American staple, the hot dog. □



Spectators hold food at MetLife Stadium during the first half of an NFL football game in East Rutherford, N.J. Those fortunate enough to have general seating tickets to the Super Bowl at MetLife Stadium will be able to gorge on American, Mexican, Asian and Italian specialties, done with a local flair, in the "Home Food Advantage" food court.

(AP Photo/Peter Morgan)

inspired by stadium chef Eric Borgia's grandmother (based on some diligent first-person research, they are the real deal). For everyone else,

is a street you'll wish you lived on. It's comfort food gone rogue, starting with a stand where you can score a linebacker-sized grilled

Asian dishes, including noodle soup and pork-and-chicken steamed buns with pickled slaw and Sriracha aioli. For meat lovers, there's Lib-